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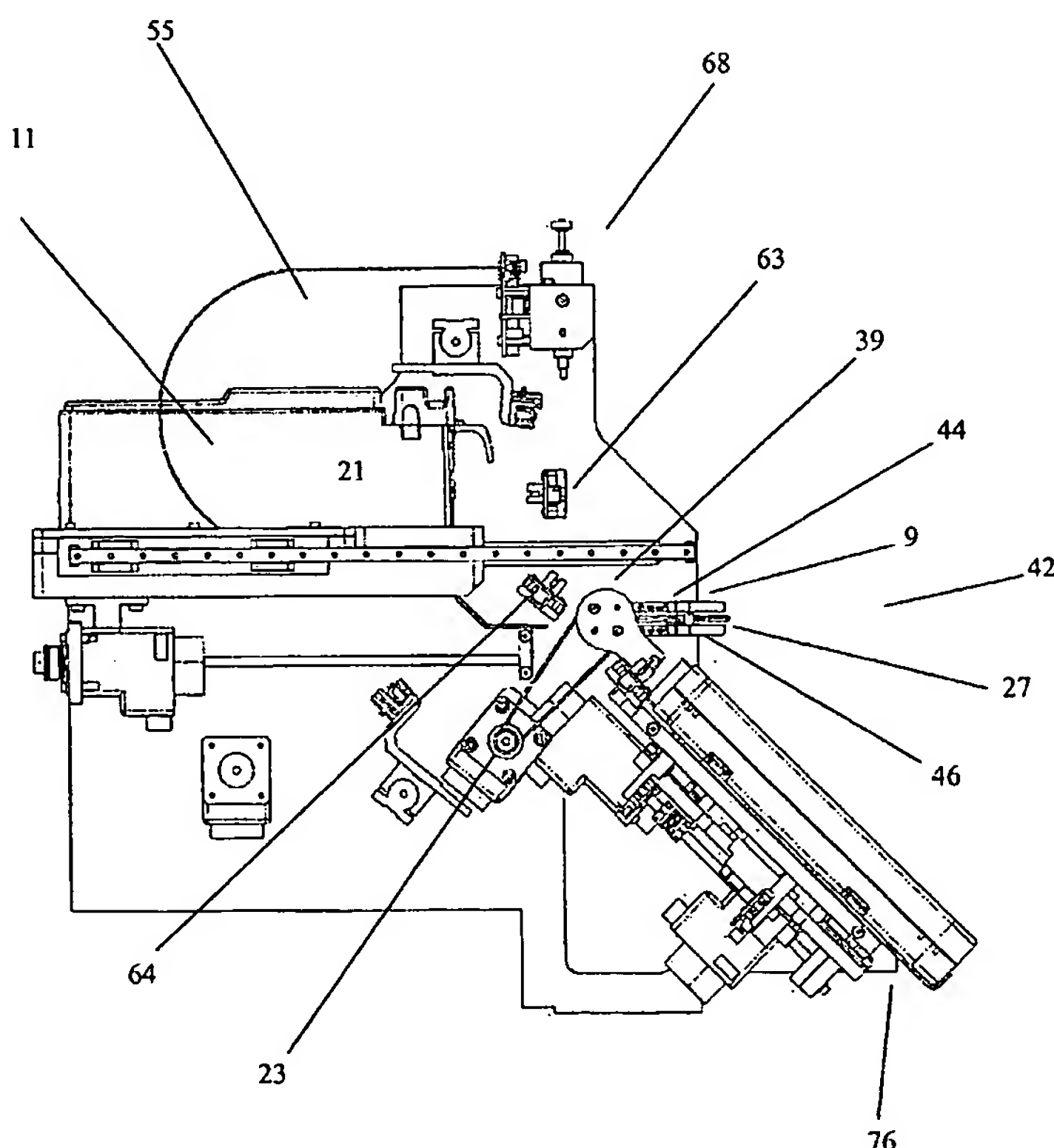
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(54) Title: ENHANCED FLUIDIC METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED RAPID IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY



(57) Abstract: A sample processing system that may be configured to achieve rapid sample processing such as rapid histochemical processing may involve a wave element that can use angular microscopic slide movements to cause repeated elimination and reapplication of a fluidic substance perhaps through the action of capillary motion in order to refresh a microenvironment adjacent to a sample such as a biopsy or other such sample. Through such refreshing of a microenvironment, depletion of the microenvironment is avoided and the time necessary for slide processing may be dramatically shortened from a more common 60 to 120 minutes to perhaps less than 15 minutes so as to permit use of such a system in an intraoperative or surgical environment such as recommended by the College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines or the like. Patients may thus avoid a need to be subjected to an additional surgical procedure when lab results become available to see if tumors or the like were fully removed in a prior procedure.



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Enhanced Fluidic Method And Apparatus For Automated Rapid Immunohistochemistry

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1. Technical Field

This invention relates to the field of automated sample testing such as may be used in biochemistry, perhaps including cytochemistry, histochemistry, and the like. Specifically, it relates to systems and devices that may be used to achieve results in a
10 more rapid fashion. Such systems and devices may be particularly appropriate for use in a surgical or operative environment, where rapid results may be necessary. Furthermore, this application addresses only certain aspects of the technology disclosed. Other aspects are addressed in the concurrently filed applications entitled: "Method and Apparatus for Automated Rapid Immunohistochemistry" filed this same day and accorded serial number
15 PCT/US2006/_____, "Parallel Processing Fluidic Method and Apparatus for Automated Rapid Immunohistochemistry" filed this same day and accorded serial number PCT/US2006/_____, and "Wicking Cassette Method and Apparatus for Automated Rapid Immunohistochemistry" filed this same day and accorded serial number PCT/US2006/_____. Each of these are hereby incorporated by reference as well as the
20 priority filing (which this filing claims the benefit of), US Provisional Application No. 60/673,468 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Automated Rapid Immunohistochemistry".

2. Background

25 Frequently during surgery, tissue biopsy samples may be removed from a patient and sent from the operating room to a pathology laboratory for analysis, for example by frozen tissue section diagnosis. In addition, methodology for frozen tissue section diagnosis may consist of freezing tissue in a pathology lab, sectioning the frozen tissue, and performing standard Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) staining. H&E may be a general-
30 purpose stain for helping a medical pathologist diagnose tissue pathologies. However, H&E staining may have a number of limitations, for example that it may be a non-specific tissue stain, and may not identify specific proteins in tissue. Such identification of specific proteins in tissue, for example by using a procedure sometimes referred to as immunohistochemistry (IHC), may help a pathologist diagnose numerous intraoperative

tissue pathologies. Examples may include sentinel lymph node biopsies (for potential metastatic carcinomas and melanomas), undifferentiated tumors (potential carcinomas, lymphomas, and melanomas), and biopsies of margins (looking at the edges of excised tissue to see if the entire tumor has been removed).

5 A problem may be that current automated IHC may require 60 to 120 minutes, which may be too long to be useful during intraoperative procedures. Intraoperative guidelines, such as those provided by the College of American Pathologists, may typically recommend reporting pathology data to the surgeon within approximately 20 minutes.

10 It often may be difficult to examine unstained cell and tissue preparations with a microscope, for example perhaps due to a lack of contrast between individual cells and the background matrix, or perhaps between individual parts of cells. To improve such contrast, researchers may apply stains to cell and tissue specimens to be examined. Such stains may be absorbed differently by various structures in cells, perhaps such that the
15 contrast between the different cell structures may be improved.

Staining tissue specimens may be a nontrivial, time-consuming process. Often, a number of different staining and rinsing stages may be required. Each stage may require a specific amount of reagent or buffer and may take a specific amount of time. Thus, trained technicians often may be employed to perform such operations. Furthermore,
20 hospitals and laboratories may be required to stain large numbers of tissue specimens. Thus, it may be desirable to automate the tissue specimen staining process. By automating the process, expensive human labor may be eliminated and the probability of an error occurring during the staining process may be reduced. Accordingly, some manufacturers have introduced equipment for the automated staining of tissue specimens
25 on microscope slides.

However, existing automatic staining devices may not be simple to use. Such existing automatic staining devices may required arcane programming commands and complicated procedures, which may require extensive user training before such devices can be operated effectively. It therefore may be desirable to simplify the operation of an
30 automatic staining device.

As mentioned earlier, though, existing automatic staining devices can take a significant amount of time to achieve a desired result. When using interacting or perhaps binding substances, such as antibodies, or more generally reagents, the substance used

that may take a significant period of time to achieve its chemical result relative to an intraoperative procedure. For example, a typical reagent binding profile using an accelerated incubation period can take in excess of 60 minutes or the like. This is usually too long to leave a patient exposed and so it is not uncommon for the patient to be sewn
5 back up and asked to return once result are available. While this testing time period may be necessary in order to achieve an amount of binding or other interaction desired with most substances, such a period of time is not typically acceptable from the perspective of performing an intraoperative procedure on a patient. Beyond merely the chemical interaction time period, the entire process can take even significantly longer. Thus it is
10 not uncommon for many staining or other biochemical procedures to require at least one hour in order to yield the desired results.

Furthermore, the entire process may be fairly involved. For example, a biochemical process can sometimes involve steps including: subjecting a sample to a first antibody substance, perhaps driving the antibody substance around with an air knife to
15 blow air across the surface of the sample, rinsing the sample with a buffer, subjecting the sample to a second antibody substance, perhaps again driving the antibody substance around with an air knife, again rinsing the sample with a buffer, subjecting the sample to a chromogen substance, again rinsing the sample with a buffer, subjecting the sample to a counterstain, and then perhaps again rinsing the sample with a buffer. Each of these steps
20 may take a significant amount of time in and of themselves, and may result in the sum of the entire procedure taking an inordinate amount of time. In fact, it may not be uncommon for such involved procedures to take 90 minutes or more. Although there may have been efforts to shorten this time period, the simple fact of the chemistry involved may have focused these efforts to some degree on speeding up the mechanical
25 processes involved.

One process which may be known to speed up the chemical process, however, is to heat a sample and the substance applied. In this type of a system, a reagent may be heated and this may reduce the reagent-tissue interaction period. Disadvantages to heating may include the fact that many reagents and some samples may not react well to heating.

30 While the use of an air knife to blow air across the surface of a reagent and to drive the reagent or other substance around on the surface of the sample may have accomplished some shortening of the overall process, it remains a fact that even when this function is employed, the procedures still require long time periods on the order to 60 to 120 minutes. Thus, one of the challenges and one of the limitations of many of the

automated histochemical and other such systems previously in use is the fact that they simply do not yield their results in a short enough time period in order to provide systems that can be used effectively in an intraoperative environment. Prior to the present invention, it may have even been perceived as a necessary incident to the basic chemistry
5 that such tests required this long a time frame. In view of the foregoing, there is a need for the availability of an automated rapid IHC or other such system that would allow IHC or the like to be performed within 20 minutes or less. Automated rapid IHC or other such biochemical tests are, of course, also desired by research laboratories for frozen tissues and the like.

10

3. Summary Disclosure of the Invention

In embodiments, the present invention involves a self contained rapid sample processing system such as shown in Figure 1. This system can be used to perform rapid IHC and the like. Embodiments can overcome problems that have seemed
15 insurmountable perhaps by approaching the problem from a very different perspective. The present invention presents systems in a variety of embodiments through which sample processing can be accomplished in a variety of biochemical contexts and in a dramatically shorter time period. In fact, the present invention shortens tests that have previously taken 60 or 90 or even 120 minutes to an intraoperative time frame such as 20
20 minutes or the like. Embodiments of the invention overcome what may have been previously considered a physical requirement, namely, that many particular biochemistries involved simply required a long time. The present invention overcomes this limit by achieving shorter interaction, binding, and reaction times. By creating particular conditions within the system, the desired amount of chemical interactions can
25 be accomplished in a far shortened timeframe. In embodiments, the invention acts to replenish a microenvironment on an exterior sample area of a sample so that binding or more generally, other interaction, can occur more rapidly. Embodiments of the present invention overcome the longer binding times previously perhaps taken as a physical constant. Embodiments realize that by acting in a manner to replenish a
30 microenvironment, not just move fluid on a sample, can significantly shorten the time needed for a particular amount of interaction. Rather than using a completely new application of reagents or the like, the present invention acts in a manner where the microenvironment is replenished and a shortened interaction is achieved. Some embodiments of the invention achieve this by removing, perhaps mixing, and reapplying

the same fluid so that the fluid and the substance in the microenvironment immediately adjacent the sample is not depleted.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

5 Figures 1 shows a depiction of outer view of a self contained system according to one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a conceptual schematic depiction of one embodiment of a sample processing system.

Figure 3 is a depiction of an enlarged view of a bounded fluidic environment such as in
10 between two slides.

Figures 4 a-d show a depiction of surface movement sequences such as in one embodiment that act to eliminate and replenish a fluidic substance.

Figure 5 is a diagram of some representative antibody binding profiles.

Figure 6 is a depiction of some rapid sample processing protocol steps and timings.

15 Figure 7 is a cut away depiction of one embodiment of a rapid sample processing system.

Figure 8 is an exploded view of the embodiment of the rapid sample processing system in Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a depiction of a reagent magazine and cartridge showing use with various substances.

20 Figure 10 shows a depiction of an instrument view of a rapid sample processing system showing certain structural elements in another embodiment.

Figure 11 shows a depiction of a side view of a slide movement system in an open position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 12 shows a depiction of a side view of a slide movement system in a dispensing
25 position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 13 is a depiction of a side view of a slide movement system in a partially closed or partially open position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 14 is a depiction of a side view of a slide movement system in a closed position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

30 Figure 15 is a depiction of a side view of a slide movement system in a tilted position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 16 is a depiction of a perspective view of a slide movement system in an open position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 17 is a depiction of a perspective view of a slide movement system in a closed
35 position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 18 is a depiction of a close up view a slide movement system in a closed position for the embodiment in Figure 10.

Figure 19 is a depiction of a perspective view of one embodiment of a linear reagent magazine.

5 Figure 20 is a depiction of a perspective view of a different embodiment of a linear reagent magazine with attached primary antibody cartridge.

Figure 21 is a depiction of an exploded view of an embodiment of a primary antibody cartridge.

Figure 22 is a depiction of an exploded view of an embodiment of a linear reagent 10 magazine.

Figure 23 is a depiction of the operation of an embodiment of a substance dispenser as may be included in either an antibody cartridge or a reagent magazine.

Figure 24 is a depiction of a cut away view of an embodiment of a substance dispenser as may be included in either an antibody cartridge or a reagent magazine.

15

5. Modes for Carrying out the Invention

As mentioned earlier, the present invention includes a variety of aspects, which may be combined in different ways. The following descriptions are provided to list elements and describe some of the embodiments of the present invention. These elements 20 are listed with initial embodiments, however it should be understood that they may be combined in any manner and in any number to create additional embodiments. The variously described examples and embodiments should not be construed to limit the present invention to only the explicitly described systems, techniques, and applications. Further, this description should be understood to support and encompass descriptions and 25 claims of all the various embodiments, systems, techniques, methods, devices, and applications with any number of the disclosed elements, with each element alone, and also with any and all various permutations and combinations of all elements in this or any subsequent application.

The present invention can be understood by reference to the detailed figures and 30 description set forth herein. Embodiments of the invention are discussed below with reference to the figures. However, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the detailed description given herein with respect to these figures is for explanatory purposes as the invention extends beyond these limited embodiments.

Referring to Figures 1, 2, and 10 through 19, it can be understood that 35 embodiments of the invention may present a self contained system (56) perhaps with a

system enclosure (60) that can achieve a method of rapid sample processing. In general, the system may involve obtaining a sample (1), placing that sample in a sample processing system (2), and then automatically processing that sample (1) by operation of the system. The system operator or other person can select an appropriate biochemical
5 test sequence perhaps through a computer or perhaps touch screen display (57) or the like and the sample processing system (2) can be configured as or can include an automatically sequenced test processor (3). In embodiments, the sample processing system (2) can include an automatically sequenced biochemical test processor (3), an automatically sequenced histochemical test processor, an automatically sequenced
10 cytochemical test processor, or the like so that it may act to accomplish a particular type of test not previously able to be accomplished in or perhaps merely desired to be accomplished in a rapid manner.

The sample processing system (2) can act to subject at least a portion of an exterior sample area (4) of the sample (1) to some appropriate interaction. By permitting
15 this interaction, the sample processing system (2) may be configured to cause or to permit the placement of a substance (5) in the vicinity of the sample (1). As a result of the substance (5) placed on the sample (1), the sample processing system (2) can cause an appropriate interaction and thereby provide a detection indication. This detection indication may be caused by the presence of a specific type of biological substance within
20 the sample (1). As mentioned above the sample processing system (2) can be used in even an operative environment. As such, it may be appropriate to make the sample (1) a thin biologic sample or the like. This sample may be placed on one or more thin biologic sample holders (6).

It may also be desired to accomplish a coincidental or parallel processing of a
25 variety of samples at once. As such, the sample processing system (2) may have multiple sample holders. These sample holders may facilitate establishing a sample (1) on a surface (7). This surface (7) may be a substantially planar surface so that the sample is laid flat for easier interaction. In instances where the sample (1) is a thin biologic sample, the sample (1) may be placed on a slide such as a microscopic slide (8). In this instance,
30 the sample processing system (2) may include a microscopic slide sample holder (9). A microscopic slide sample holder (9) may facilitate the placement of may aid in applying an appropriate substance (5) in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area (4) of the sample (1). By establishing a sample (1) on a microscopic slide (8) traditional staining and analysis can be conducted, albeit in a shortened time frame..

As mentioned, at least a portion of an exterior sample area (4) of the sample (1) may be subjected to an appropriate substance (5). The substance (5) may be any appropriate reactive or even a non-reactive substance. To the presence of an appropriate interactive or perhaps reactive substance may facilitate actions so that detection can
5 occur. In many instances, a substance (5) may be a fluidic substance (10). By subjecting the sample (1) to at least one fluidic substance (10) interaction such as antibody binding, staining, or the like may occur. Naturally, the fluidic substance (10) may be an appropriate reactive substance or perhaps an appropriate fluidic reactive substance. Thus, the sample processing system (2) may include some type of substance source, such as a
10 fluidic substance source (11) as part of a preselected biochemical test sequence. The sample processing system (2) may also automatically cause actions such as by the fluidic substance source (11) that place fluidic substance (10) on a sample (1). In embodiments of the invention, this action may be conducted through the use of capillary action and thus a sample processing system (2) may capillary subject a sample (1) to an appropriate
15 substance (5). In some popular arrangements, the fluidic substance (10) may be a liquid substance. This liquid substance may of course be a solution, a suspension, or any other type of substance. In other embodiments, the invention can even be adapted to a nonliquid fluidic substance such as a gaseous substance.

Once the substance has been placed on a sample (1), the automatically sequenced
20 test processor (3) may be programmed and may act to permit a sample (1) to be incubated in the presence of a substance (5). This programming may act as an incubation element (12) within the sample processing system (2). An automatically sequenced test processor (3) may act to accomplish the step of incubating the sample (1) in the substance (5) for some period of time after it also accomplishes the step of subjecting the sample of (1) to
25 the substance (5). In some embodiments, the sample processing system (2) can accomplish incubation an unelevated temperature, such as room temperature or the like. Naturally, embodiments may act to heat the sample or the like and the temperature may actually be increased by some amount. For temperature sensitive substances, embodiments of the sample processing system (2) may not significantly externally heat
30 the sample or the substance (5) and thus the sample processing system (2) may contain an unelevated temperature incubation element (13) by causing, whether through programming or the like, the sample (1) to incubate in the presence of a substance (5) without a significantly elevated temperature.

Of course, as the substance changes, the sample changes, or the process changes,
35 the automatically sequenced test processor (3) within the sample processing system (2)

may be differently programmed to utilize differing incubation periods for differing substances, differing samples, or the like. Depending upon the substance or samples involved, it is also possible for the automatically sequenced test processor (3) to even utilize no incubation period. This may be appropriate in instances where there is sufficient
5 interaction in the time period where the substance (5) is placed and removed from a sample (1). It may also be appropriate for certain substances such as a buffer substance. In such instances, the buffer substance may be applied and relatively immediately removed with no significant incubation or delay period. By the term relatively immediately removed, it should be understood that while there may be pauses or the like
10 that may be incidental to the mechanics or other processing aspects of the automatically sequenced test processor (3), no substantial delay may occur and thus no significant incubation period may exist for particular arrangements.

Naturally, the amount of incubation can vary. Significant in some embodiments of the present invention is the possibility that incubation can be greatly shortened as
15 compared to prior techniques. Incubation may also be conducted in a sequence of partial incubation events. In some such partial incubation events it may be arranged such that the automatically sequenced test processor (3) may act to partially incubate a substance for less than or equal to a variety of times. These time may ranging from 90 seconds to zero seconds. Partial incubation events which may be such as 90, 60, 35, 30, 22, 20, 15, 10, 5,
20 3, and even zero seconds maybe applied. In such events the sample (1) may also be subjected to the substance (5) without significant disturbance. In this undisturbed timeframe, an appropriate interaction, reaction, or other process can occur in a more traditional sense. In embodiments of the present invention, the amount of interaction can be far greater than would have normally occurred in the selected timeframe. Perhaps
25 even more significantly, partial incubation can occur in time frames that are now dramatically shorter than previously understood as possible for the desired amount of interaction. Combining the partial incubation sequences, a total incubation time can thus be dramatically shortened. Again, through action of embodiments of the invention, the total incubation of a particular chosen substance can even be for a total time of less than
30 or equal to about 300, 250, 200, 150, 20, 16, or even 10 seconds as part of a selected biochemical, histochemical, cytochemical, or other appropriate sample process.

Embodiments of the invention can act to greatly shorten the chemistry times previously thought by some to be unchangeable constants. Through appropriate programming, the automatically sequenced test processor (3) may act to initially permit
35 an interaction between the sample (1) and an appropriate fluidic reactive substance. In

situations as may be appropriate to many immunohistochemical tests, the system can be configured to permit a chemical interaction or even a chemical reaction to occur between the sample (1) and some substance such as an antibody substance (14) in a shortened time frame. These chemical interactions or perhaps reactions may take a variety of forms and
5 may include interaction such as is present when an antibody binds to a particular cellular or other structure.

In embodiments of the invention, the system may be configured to act to confine and perhaps restrain the fluidic substance in the vicinity of a sample (1). This may create a bounded fluidic environment (15) or a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17).
10 In some arrangements a sample processing system (2) may be configured so that it establishes a bounded fluidic environment (15) in the vicinity of the exterior sample area (4). This bounded fluidic environment (15) may be established through some type of fluidic boundary element (16). A fluidic boundary element (16) may actually be arranged and configured to permit the bounded fluidic environment (15) to exist in the vicinity of
15 the sample (1). By acting to establish a bounded fluidic environment (15) in the vicinity of the exterior sample area (4), the system may serve to provide an environment within which an appropriate reactive substance (5) may be placed. Furthermore, the bounded fluidic environment (15) may serve a variety of purposes. First, it may act to limit the amount of fluidic substance (10) that is used from a source such as the fluidic substance
20 source (11). This may serve to conserve what may prove to be a very expensive substance. In addition, the bounded fluidic environment (15) may serve to facilitate an appropriate action on the fluidic substance (10).

In embodiments, the bounded fluidic environment (15) may be configured to cause or permit a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17) in the vicinity of at least
25 a portion of the sample (1). By presenting a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17), the sample processing system (2) may present a fluidic environment that enhances processing. In some embodiments a sample processing system (2) may include a multidirectional fluidic confinement element (18) that can act in more than one direction. It should be understood that this may not be merely a multidimensional confinement
30 element, but rather multidirectional in that the directions may even be within the same dimensional context such as when binding on a top and a bottom, perhaps considered a single dimension, the Z-axis.

In some embodiments, the multidirectional fluidic confinement element (18) may actually be configured as an opposing surface multidirectional fluidic confinement
35 element (19). This opposing surface multidirectional fluidic confinement element (19)

may have two surfaces that oppose each other and thus confine a fluidic environment. In one embodiment, opposing microscopic slides (8) can be used to confine the fluidic environment. As shown in Figure 4, opposing microscopic slides (8) may act so that a small dimensioned area may be present between the two microscopic slide (8). In this one
5 embodiment it can be understood how the restrictively confined fluidic environment (17) may serve to establish a multidirectional restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area (4). By establishing an opposing surface multidirectional restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of the exterior sample area (4), that exterior sample area (4) may be
10 preferentially subjected to an appropriate fluidic substance (10).

In some embodiments, the multidirectional fluidic confinement element (18) may be configured as an at least three directionally confined fluidic confinement element (20). This may be achieved through the use of an opposing surface multidirectional fluidic confinement element (19) such as shown with two microscopic slides (8) and an
15 additional confinement direction, perhaps at the end of a microscopic slide (8) or at its label element or the like. Naturally additional directional confinement can be provided. Confinement can also be accomplished through the use of appropriate materials such as by using a hydrophobic material or the like. As but one example, it can be understood that by using a label that is hydrophobic, certain fluidic substances (10) may actually
20 become confined in yet another direction. Confinement can cause at least three directions of confinement and thus can present an at least three directionally confined fluidic confinement element (20). Naturally it should be understood that a multidirectional fluidic confinement element (18) may act to establish a restrictively confined liquid environment or maybe even a restrictively confined gaseous environment.

25 As mentioned earlier, a variety of substances can be used in order to achieve the desired results. As such, a sample processing system (2) may include a substance source (21) that acts as a particular type of substance source. A great variety of substances can be used and thus the substance source can serve as a histochemical process substance source, a cytochemical process substance source, an organic substance source, a cytologic
30 substance source, and even on a biomolecular substance source. Even with more specificity, a particular substance that is appropriate to particular tests can be used and thus a substance source can also have different types of substances including but not limited to reagents, primary antibody substances, and secondary antibody substances, chromogens, cellular substances, counterstains, histochemical probes, cellular substance
35 counterstains, first chromogen components, second chromogen component, monovalent

antibody substances, multivalent antibody substances, histologic substances, immunofluorescence substances, immuno gold substances, immuno gold silver enhanced substances, immuno cytochemical substances, immuno histochemical substances, fluorescent molecular substances, and even biologically specialized proteins. Further, 5 substances produced by other substances can be used such as substances produced by antigen stimulation, substances produced by B-cell stimulation, B-cell stimulation produced proteins, immune response substances to other elements, immune responses to antigens, immunoglobulins, and otherwise. Of course, a variety of stain substances can be used such as basophilic stains, acidophilic stains, hematoxylin stains, eosin stains, 10 eosinophilic stains, H&E stains, Lee's stain substances, Mallory's connective tissue stain substances, periodic acid-Schiff stain substances, phosphotungstic acid hematoxylin stain substances, silver stain substances, Sudan stain substances, Wright's stain substances, Verhoeff stain substances, trichrome stain substances, geimsa stain substances, tristologic substances, cytologic substances, biomolecular substances, and even substances that 15 contains any combinations of the above. As should be understood, a substance source (21) may be part of a system that includes an appropriate substance type of processor (22). In this fashion the system may include a histochemical processor, a cytochemical processor, or the like. Furthermore the system can be configured to subject the sample to any of these substances.

20 An important aspect of embodiments of the present invention may be its use with particularly challenging substances such as low affinity antibody substances or perhaps low temperature antibody substances. In this manner, embodiments of the invention can serve to achieve results where previously they may not have been practically possible. As one example, a low affinity antibody substance, such as any antibody substance that 25 typically does not exhibit an acceptable percentage of binding within the previously understood time frames, can be used. As such, the sample processing system (2) may serve through its programming or the like to subjects the sample (1) to a low affinity antibody substance. A type of low affinity antibody substance may even be a substance that has not previously been effectively usable in automated staining devices. In addition 30 to low affinity antibody substances, a heat sensitive antibody substance might also be used. While in some systems such antibody substances may not have been used in the past, now they might be used to a greater degree. While some systems utilized heat to cause accelerated interaction within the previously acceptable time frames, the present system may be able to be used with anybody substances that are heat sensitive. Thus 35 some substances that may not have been able to be used may now be usable. This may

exist even if the accelerated time frames are not available due to their intolerance to elevated temperatures and their low affinities. In some instances, an antibody that typically and traditionally bound less than about half of its typical eventual amount in about 150, 180, or 240 seconds might be used. All this, of course, may even take place
5 under normal temperature conditions and thus the system may be used with an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than the mentioned time frames to bind about one half of their typical eventual amount under normal temperature conditions.

As mentioned earlier, a sample processing system (2) can act to facilitate accomplishing a variety of different test sequences or test processes. Applying
10 embodiments that permit rapid processing, the system may be configured to accomplish rapid immunohistochemistry, immunocytochemistry, in situ hybridization, fluorescent in situ hybridization, chromosomal identification, staining, antigen retrieval, cytochemical, molecular chemical, epitope retrieval, or even pretreatment processes. These different types of processes can also be applied to a great variety of samples. Thus by obtaining a
15 particular type of sample and perhaps placing that sample in a sample holder -- perhaps such as a microscopic slide sample holder (9) -- the sample processor or perhaps the automatically sequenced test processor (3) can be configured to process a variety of differing samples. These can samples can be biologic, cellular, tissue, biopsy, carcinoma related, melanoma related, lymphoma related, margin testing related, epithelial cell,
20 lymph node, undifferentiated tumor cell, pediatric cell, mohs mapping cells, h.pylori cells, an chronic villi tissue cells, neonatal herpes cells, proteomics cells, or other types of samples. As such, the processor can be any one of these types of processors through appropriate programming to achieve a test and act on samples of the type mentioned. The entire sample processing system (2) can provide a detection indication of the presence of
25 some type of biological substance within the sample (1). This detection, may include a detection indication of the presence of a carcinomic, tumor, phagocytic, lymph node, transplant procedure, tumor differentiation, pediatric pathology, mohs mapping, margin, margin indicative, h.pylori diagnosis, therapeutic marker, chronic villi tissue, neonatal herpes, virally, bacterially, infectious diagnostic, or just a molecular indicative type of
30 substance within the sample.

A specifically important type of processing may be immunohistochemistry processing. As such, the sample processing system (2) may accomplish any one of the particular types of processes involved in immunohistochemistry. It may include an appropriate type of immunohistochemistry processor. When such a processor is
35 appropriately configured, it may serve as an automatically sequenced test processor (3)

and may be of any type mentioned. In general, biochemical processing may include a great variety of types of chemical processing including but not limited to histochemical processing, cytochemical processing, immunohistochemical processing, and the like.

In some embodiments, a significant aspect may be the fact that the present invention can be configured to achieve rapid biochemical processing. As such, the sample processing system (2) may include a fast biochemical sample processor (24). This fast biochemical sample processor (24) can act to accomplish the desired results and accomplish a completion time that is shorter than a traditional completion time period. The traditional completion time can be considered as the time at which is presently understood as being the amount of time necessary in order to achieve desired results for a given type of sample, given type of process, given type of test apparatus, and/or a given type of substance. For the same type of configurations, the present invention can achieve fast biochemical processing through the use of a fast biochemical sample processor (24) which may be configured to achieve the same desired results as might normally be chemically expected in longer time period. A fast biochemical sample processor (24) may act in less than a traditional completion time to achieve the same desired results. In some embodiments this may be achieved without elevated temperatures and thus the system may act on an anybody substance to be in less than a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period.

As a fast biochemical sample processor (24) the system may be configured to automatically achieve the biochemical test sequence in less than the traditional completion time while still achieving the same desired results. This may even be an intentionally shortened reaction period in which the substance (5) may interact with the sample (1). In such a configuration a fast biochemical sample processor (24) may even act as a biochemically time shortened interaction element. This may serve as a reduced detection time period process completion element. Embodiments may provide a detection indication in a reduced detection time period so that it can be used in an intraoperative or other shortened time environment. Naturally by presenting a method of rapid biochemical processing it is possible that the present system may be used beyond environments that merely require shortened processing. It may also be used in instances where it is desirable to simply take less time. In instances where antibody substances are used to bind with a sample (1), a system may be configured to subject a sample to a reduced antibody binding time period. This may be achieved by enhancing the interaction substantially along at least a portion of a bounded fluidic environment (15). It may of course also occur within a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17).

By allowing enhanced interaction to occur for at least some period of time, embodiments of the invention may permit rapid biochemical processing. It should be understood that this rapid processing can merely be something that is shorter than a recommended reaction period. The interaction need only occur in some shortened time frame as compared to that traditionally accepted for a particular situation. Embodiments of the sample processing system (2) may have reduced times as compared to a traditional interaction, completion, reaction, or detection time frame for a given situation. Perhaps surprisingly the present invention can achieve an acceptable level of interaction or reaction in less than an anticipated to timeframe. Thus, although desired results were typically not chemically expected until in longer time period, the present invention can present those same results in a shortened timeframe. This shortened timeframe may even be a less than a recommended reaction period and it may also be conducted as part of a simple automated biochemical test sequence.

By limiting a period within which an appropriate reactive substance may substantially be reacted, the present invention can serve to achieve rapid results, namely, results in less than a traditional completion time period. This timeframe may be an intentionally shortened reaction period. Embodiments of the invention made provide a detection indication in the presence of the specific type of biological substance in a reduced detection time period and may utilize a reduced reaction time period element, a reduced interaction time period element, or perhaps a reduced binding time period interaction element (25). This reduced time period interaction element (25) may be programming such as contained within an automatically sequenced test processor (3) in the sample processing system (2) or it may be present as hardware or firmware. The reduced time process completion may be a reduced time process completion element (26) and may be included in the sample processing system (2) as well as a reduced detection time period process completion element. By utilizing a reduced time period in whatever context, embodiments of the present invention can achieve the results even perhaps with unelevated temperature conditions. Thus, embodiments of the invention may utilize a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for a particular substance.

In some embodiments, the amount of interaction may be an appropriate amount. In situations such as the binding of an antibody to a sample (1), embodiments of the invention may accomplish a significant percentage of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody binding in a reduced time period. These significant percentages may be percentages such as greater than or equal to about 70, 80, 90, 95, 98, perhaps substantially all, or even 100% of a traditionally accepted total

amount of unelevated temperature antibody binding. A qualitative amount and time frame can also be provided such as embodiments which provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about a visiting outpatient, an intraoperative procedure time limit, or perhaps even the College of American Pathologists Intraoperative Guideline amount of 5 times. By achieving results in these more general contexts, the present invention can offer systems that can be used more effectively by doctors and more effectively for patients. The present invention may thus be appropriate for use in an operating room time constraint environment or the like. It may even permit use in a surgery time constraint environment or the like. Quantitatively, embodiments of the invention may provide a 10 detection indication in less than about the aforementioned 60, 45, 30, 20, 15, 12, and even 10 minute time frames. Aspects of the system such as the automatically sequenced test processor (3) a such may be configured to serve as a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element. These may be configured to provide a detection indication in less than any of the previously mentioned time frames. A system may also 15 be configured to use interaction times that are less than about 75%, 50%, 30%, 23%, or even 18% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time frame. This may also apply in situations with elevated temperatures as well. A system may also provide a completion element configured to provide the aforementioned detection indication time frames and made provide a histochemically time shortened interaction element with the 20 aforementioned time frames. As mentioned earlier, the system may provide an indication in less than or equal to about 500, 400, 300, 240, 180, 150, or perhaps even less than or equal to about 120 seconds times. This may occur for substances that cause about 50% or perhaps 80% of their traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 for the 50% amount or perhaps 660 seconds for the 25 80% amount.

In order to achieve a shortened timeframe or interaction aspects, the system may include activities that cause a forced action within a fluidic environment. The system may act to apply a motive force in the vicinity of the sample. This may occur through a motive force element (23). This motive force may be applied substantially along at least 30 a portion of the restrictively confined fluidic environment (17). By automatically applying a motive force, the automatically sequenced test processor (3) may act at appropriate times. This application of a motive force may, in some embodiments, initiate a fluid wave. By affirmatively initiating a fluid wave, fluid within the restrictively confined fluidic environment (17) may be moved. The affirmative initiation of a fluid 35 wave may also occur in a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17). All this may

occur at time when the fluid needs or will be enhanced by being replenished in some fashion.

In some embodiments the automatically sequenced test processor (3) may act to affirmatively initiate an oscillatory fluid wave, that is, a fluid wave that may occur and
5 move back-and-forth multiple times. These may or may not be of a regular nature and may or may not have pauses in between. Through such a program, the system to include subroutines or the like that may serve as an oscillatory fluid wave element (27). Naturally, it should be understood that the oscillatory fluid wave element (27) need not be included. In some embodiments the system may include a general fluid wave element.
10 This fluid wave element may merely cause some sort of fluid wave to occur within a bounded fluidic environment (16) for at least some period of time period. A fluid wave element may act within an area such as the restrictively confined fluidic environment (17), and thus the system may cause fluid motion in this environment. As explained later, in some embodiments this might remove a fluid from the fluidic environment and then
15 may even reapply the fluid to that fluidic environment. The system may also act to automatically substantially stop the fluid wave such as by removing the motive force that causes the wave in the first place.

As mentioned earlier, one of the aspects of an embodiment of the invention may counter a depletion of a substance (5) as it interacts with the sample (1). As shown in
20 Figure 3, a sample can be subjected to the substance (5) through some type of fluidic environment. This fluidic environment may be a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17). Within any type of fluidic environment, restricted or not, there may be contained a microenvironment (28) which may exist immediately next to the sample (1). This microenvironment (28) may also be immediately adjacent or next to the sample (1).
25 A microenvironment may contain elements of the substance (5) which actually interact with the sample (1). When elements of substance (5) become depleted, the amount of interaction may slow down. An aspect of embodiments of the present invention may be the fact that this microenvironment (28) can be replenished without replacing the entire fluid. Specifically, as can be understood from Figure 4, by eliminating the fluidic
30 substance (1) from within the microenvironment (28), the fluidic substance source (11) can be replenished and subsequently replaced. Through appropriate arrangements, the sample processing system (2) can include a sample interface microenvironment affirmative depletion avoidance element (29). This sample interface microenvironment affirmative depletion avoidance element (29) may be a combination of programming and
35 perhaps hardware that acts to achieve the appropriate activity. This action may be as

simple as merely accomplishing substantial mixing within the sample interface microenvironment (29). Interestingly, while air knives and the like have been used, these appear to have not achieved the level of mixing necessary in the microenvironment (28) in order to afford substantially reduced process times as embodiments of the present invention can now achieve. In fact, existing systems (which may even use air knife systems) still retain the old processing times of an hour or perhaps even 90 or 120 minutes whereas the present invention affords significantly shorter process times – times that are less than an intraoperative 20 minute guideline.

To minimize substance usage, and to efficiently achieve the goal of rapid processing, embodiments of the invention can act to non-replacingly substantially refresh the substance (1) in the microenvironment (28) adjacent the sample (1). This can occur in the sample interface microenvironment, by acting to transiently eliminate the substance (5) from within the vicinity of the sample (1) and then acting to reapply that same substance. As mentioned, substantial refreshing can occur. Even in other systems that move a fluidic substance (10), such does not appear to occur as evidence by the fact that even those systems still have the slow process times and do not act to rapidly process the sample as in embodiments of the present invention. As shown in Figure 4, this can occur by moving the perhaps firm surfaces (7) that define the bounded fluidic environment (15) or perhaps a firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment. By the term firm, it should be understood to encompass both rigid or even pliable boundary elements. It can also occur by taking advantage of the effects of capillary action as shown. Through such activity, the sample processing system (2) or perhaps the automatically sequenced test processor (3) through the inclusion of a subroutine or programming or the like can be considered as having a sample interface microenvironment substance refresher element (30). This can achieve refreshing the fluidic substance (10) without replacing it.

Chemically, by refreshing the substance a high level of the desired activity can continually occur. As shown in Figure 5 with respect to a representative substance, in this can a particular antibody substance, this can be understood. In this graphic depiction of what a traditional accelerated/heated antibody substance binding profile may be like (58), slow binding activity may likely be due to depletion of the antibody substance in the microenvironment (28). Thus the typical binding of an antibody substance can take in excess of 14 minutes to achieve 95% of its eventual amount of binding. By acting, perhaps through the five waves or the like as shown to repeatedly refresh the substance (5), embodiments of the system can achieve the refreshed antibody substance binding

profile (59) shown. Through this refreshing, the curve can be repeatedly on its steeper portion and thus a higher rate of binding or other interaction can be achieved.

To achieve this transiently, such as in where the substance (5) is available for reapplication at some later point in time, embodiments of the system can establish a collected fluidic substance (36) as shown. Elimination of the substance (5) can also be substantial in that most is removed even though some perhaps slight amounts may remain on or in the vicinity of the sample (1) or the surface (7). It should also be noted that eliminating the substance (5) from the sample (1) is not the same action as the substance itself becoming depleted such as by the binding or other desired interaction occurring.

10 Furthermore, the system may act to momentarily hold the substance (5) eliminated from the sample (1) such as in the location indicated for the collected fluidic substance (36). This can occur without disturbance such as might let the collected fluidic substance (36) remix as a result of it being eliminated from the sample (1) perhaps from turbulence or the like. This holding can simply be a pause in operation and thus the system may be
15 considered as having a collected eliminated fluid pause element (31). This pause element may act at least some times after action of the substance transient elimination element. The holding of the eliminated substance can occur for a variety of times, such as times less than or equal to about 4 seconds, 3 seconds, 1.5 seconds, 1 seconds or even 500ms. Through these times, the collected eliminated fluid pause element (31) may be configured
20 to be a collected eliminated fluid pause element configured to hold for any of the above times. As indicated in Figure 6, multiple pauses can be used and thus the system may have a multiple pause collected fluid pause element (33). This can occur repeatedly as well. In such a configuration, a sample processing system (2) can act to repeatedly momentarily hold a substance (5) eliminated from the sample (1).

25 As mentioned, movement of a fluid in the vicinity of the sample (1) may be desired for some embodiments. In this more general context, a sample processing system (2) according to one embodiment of the invention may be configured to include a sample interface microenvironment mix element (34). This sample interface microenvironment mix element (34) may actually be a substance mixer that acts after the substance source
30 has dispensed its substance (5). This may act to mix of the substance during at least some part of a process. It may act to accomplish substantial mixing within the sample interface microenvironment (28). In such configurations, the system may act to accomplish substantial mixing within a particular area immediately adjacent to the sample (1). This area, termed the sample interface microenvironment or more generally a
35 microenvironment (28) may be a variable thickness. For instance, in embodiments a

sample interface microenvironment maybe next to the sample (1) to a depth of about of perhaps at least 20 μm from the sample (1). In some embodiments mixing may occur within smaller ranges as well. While at least a 20 μm microenvironment may be mixed in some embodiments, in other embodiments much smaller distances such as perhaps 10 μm , 1 μm , 500 nm, 200 nm, 100 nm, 50 nm and even within at least about 10 nm may be the area of interest. Mixing or replenishment in such a sample interface microenvironment (28) may be appropriate for a particular applications or configurations. Interestingly, as understood from the simple fact that existing systems do not afford such rapid processing, this microenvironment mixing does not occur in existing systems.

10 In mixing the substance (5) within the microenvironment (28), the sample processing system (2) can act with two different types of processes. An initial mixing may occur and then may be followed by a different type of mixing. In one embodiment, the system may act to initially more frequently and on a shorter time frame repeat a step of transiently substantially eliminating a substance from the sample (1). After these
15 initial, perhaps more rapid steps, a second lower frequency or time period of repeating may occur. As one example, initially the sample processing system (2) may act with very little pause time in between the acts of eliminating and reapplying the substance (5). Following this initial action, the sample process system (2) may act more slowly to only occasionally eliminate material. Initial multiple steps may cause substantially more
20 mixing and may permit the substance (5) to be replenished more quickly perhaps through number of initial repetitions of the step of transiently substantially eliminating the substance from a sample.

Referring to Figures 11 through 14, it can be understood how embodiment of the invention can serve to eliminate fluidic substance (10) from within the vicinity of sample
25 (1). By including generally a substance transient elimination element (32), the sample processing system (2) may act to eliminate a substance (5) momentarily from within the immediate vicinity of the sample (1). Such a configuration may serve to transiently substantially eliminate an appropriate fluidic reactive substance from the sample (1). This may occur by substantially eliminating a fluid environment from within the immediate
30 vicinity of the sample (1). In the embodiment shown, it can be seen that the system can act to decrease a bounded fluidic environment (15) and thus pullback the fluidic substance (10) from in the vicinity of the sample (1). This may occur through capillary action such as by the movement of a surface (7), perhaps a surface such as the microscopic slide (8). As shown, in one embodiment the microscopic slides (8) may be
35 angularly moved apart and thus may act to decrease the restrictively confined fluidic

environment (17). In this manner the movement mechanism and perhaps the programming may serve to act as a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element (35). This decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element (35) may act to transiently substantially eliminate the substance from a sample (1). By transiently, that is in a manner
5 consistent with an eventual reapplication, and substantially, that is such that a microenvironment is also largely removed so that it may be replenished, eliminating the substance (5) from the sample (1), the system can achieve goals for this embodiment. It may momentarily remove the substance (5) from the sample (1) in a manner such that the substance (5) may be reapplied to the sample (1) at some point in time. Furthermore, by
10 substantially eliminating a substance (5) in the sample (1), the system may act to remove most of the substance (5) from in the vicinity of a sample (1). Naturally, some smaller amounts of substance (5) may remain, however, a significant portion of the substance (5) be removed and collected for appropriate mixing or reapplication. Thus, embodiments of the system may act to substantially eliminate the bounded fluidic environment from
15 within the immediate vicinity of the exterior sample area (4) of the sample (1).

As can be seen in Figure 4, collected fluidic substance (36) may be available within some proximity of the exterior sample area (4). This collected fluidic substance (36) may then be reapplied to the sample (1) perhaps through action of a substance reapplication element (37). This substance reapplication element (37) may act upon at
20 least a portion of the transiently eliminated substance, perhaps most or all of that indicated as the collected fluidic substance (36). By reapplying at least a portion of the transiently substantially eliminated appropriate fluidic reactive substance, the sample processing system (2) act to replenish the microenvironment (28) caused by a fluidic substance (10) so that this microenvironment (28) is no longer depleted of the particular
25 substance (5) of interest.

Similarly, a reapplication of the collected fluidic substance (36) may occur by increasing a bounded fluidic environment (15), that is, by increasing the restrictions on such an environment and thus making it smaller. By increasing the restrictively confined fluidic environment (17) the system may be considered as having an increasing restrictive
30 fluidic confinement element (38). The increasing restrictive fluidic confinement element (38) can reapply at least a portion of a transiently substantially eliminated substance to a sample (1) such as the collected fluidic substance (36).

In some embodiments, capillary action can be used to move the fluid as desired. By decreasing a restrictively confined fluidic environment (17) in the presence of
35 particular substances and surface materials, the fluidic substance (10) may be pulled back

by capillary action. In embodiments, this can even occur at a speed that is greater than a capillary movement speed for a particular configuration. If the surfaces (7) such as the microscopic slides (8) are angularly pulled apart at a speed that causes the fluidic substance (10) to move more rapidly than it would move normally through capillary
5 action without movement, the system may be considered as presenting a greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element (39). Furthermore, the sample processing system (2) can be configured to provide a capillary displacement element (40) and perhaps one that serves as a capillary fluid displacement element. In addition, the capillary displacement element (40) can serve as a capillary action substance application
10 element (41) by moving a fluid back on to a sample (1). Capillary action may exist with a capillary capable liquid, that is a liquid that exhibit capillary action for a particular configuration or the like. Such a liquid may also include a liquid exhibiting surface tension or a surface tension liquid.

Other types of movement are also possible, for instance, it is possible to have a
15 hydraulically displaced fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area (4). A system may include a hydraulic displacement element or the like. In general, if using a capillary action, a system can be considered as having a capillary fluid displacement element for displacing a fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of the exterior sample area (4). It may also be considered as acting to capillary eliminate a fluid
20 environment when it pulls a fluidic substance (10) away from the sample (1).

Accomplishing movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed for a particular configuration, the system can be considered as presenting a fast fluid movement. This, of course, can include fast fluid application as well as fast fluid elimination. This may exist in any situation in which fluid movement occurs faster than a
25 normal capillary movement for a particular configuration, and thus the system can be considered as presenting a fast fluid movement element. Fast fluid movement can occur across the sample at speeds which may range from at least equal to about 0.05 m/s, 0.1 m/s, 0.125 m/s, 0.25 m/s, 0.5 m/s,, and perhaps as great as at least about 1 m/s. Thus a fluid movement element (42) may be configured to accomplish any of the mentioned
30 fluid movement speeds or other speeds as appropriate. In embodiments, a fluid movement element (42) can accomplish a fluid movement in an amount of time rather than a particular speed. For configurations as shown where the sample (1) is situated on a microscopic slide (8), an amount of time could be a time such as less than or equal to about one second, one half second, 400 ms, 200 ms, 100 ms, or even 50 ms.

By referring to Figures 11 through 14, it can be understood that a variety of mechanical arrangements can be used to achieve the mentioned rapid sample processing. In one type of mechanical embodiment, multiple samples (1) can be configured in an aligned arrangement. Figure 11 shows that an upper glass microscope slide (43) can be 5 connected to an upper slide holder (44). Similarly, a lower glass microscope slide (45) can be held by a lower slide holder (46). Both the upper slide holder (44) and the lower slide holder (46) can be connected through some type of hinged movement element (47). The hinged movement element (47) may act to permit some sort of angular movement between slide holders and thus the upper glass microscope slide (43) and the lower glass 10 microscope slide (45). In a general sense, the hinged movement element (47) may simply cause some angular movement component between a first and a second surface, such as the microscope slides (8) or other types of surfaces. This movement can occur through use of a motor, perhaps a stepper motor under computer control such as lower slide holder motor (48) and upper slide holder motor (49).

15 A hinged movement element (47) may serve as a first and second surface movement element. While the surfaces shown in the figures are actually microscopic slides, it should be understood that the surfaces need not be planar. They may be substantially planar or flat; they can be curved as well. In Figures 4 and 14, when the hinged movement element (47) is in a closed position, the upper glass microscope slide 20 (43) may be in close proximity to the lower glass microscope slide (45). Through some operation whether it be through software, hardware, or perhaps firmware, the sample processing system (2) may be considered to include a close proximity surface displacement element. This close proximity surface displacement element can serve to permit movement or displacement of one surface relative to another while also permitting 25 positioning at some point where the surfaces are in close proximity to one another. In one embodiment, the invention can be configured to displace the first surface relative to and in close proximity to the second surface. The surfaces of course may be, but need not be, microscopic slides (8).

As mentioned earlier, a motive force element (23) can cause angular or other 30 movement between a first surface relative to its second surface. Angular movement can be seen by comparing the movements shown in Figures 4 and 11 through 14. It can be seen that the sample processing system (2) may be considered to include first and second surface angular movement element. This element can act to displace a first surface relative to and in close proximity to a second surface. While different aspects of these 35 movements are shown in Figures 4 and 11 through 14, it should be understood that the

ultimate sequencing achieved by an automatically sequenced test processor (3) can include many variations of these movements. As shown in Figure 6 a specialized sequence of movements can be achieved to accomplish a particular application that subjects the sample to a substance, transiently eliminates that substance, mixes the substance, reapplies the substance, and ultimately withdraws the substance from a sample (1). As indicated, various step timings and sequences can be achieved. For example as shown in step three and four, an initial sequence of ways to mix a primary antibody can be achieved followed by a wave sequence that may permit significant incubation time periods in general. It can also be noticed through Figure 6 that an entire detection sequence can be achieved in less than 15 minutes -- a significantly reduced time period as compared to most existing systems.

As shown in Figure 4 it can be seen how the angular movement element can actually achieve elimination and reapplication of a fluidic substance (10). Viewing the sequence shown in Figure 4 in the order A-B-C as but one example of a sequence, it can be seen how closing the slides together can cause the sample (1) to be subjected to a fluidic substance (10). Figure 4A shows how the two surfaces, in this case microscopic slides (8) can be in an open position. In this arrangement, the fluidic substance (10) is eliminated from in the vicinity of, and is eliminated from, an exterior sample area (4) of the sample (1). As shown, this may occur through capillary action whereby the fluidic substance (10) is pulled back from the sample (1) perhaps by the natural tendency of the fluid in such an arrangement.

Figure 4B shows the microscopic slides (8) in an intermediate position. As can be understood, the fluidic substance (10) may be pulled along the area in between a microscopic slide (8) and may pass across the exterior sample area (4). Figure 4C shows how in one embodiment the microscopic slides (8) may be moved to a closed position and are in close proximity to each other. First, it can be understood that the fluidic substance (10) may now be fully covering all appropriate areas between the microscopic slides (8). Furthermore, in the figures it can be seen that the microscopic slides may not actually be perfectly parallel to each other when they are in the closed position. The microscopic slides (8) may have attached to themselves some type of identifier. This identifier, shown in Figure 4 as labels (50) can cause spacing through their own thickness. In instances where the identifiers or perhaps labels (50) are relatively thick, it is possible that the microscopic slides (8) do not become fully parallel and the spacing may even be narrower at the other end. This is shown in Figure 4C as one possibility. Minimizing spacing can

serve not only to reduce fluid but also to permit the use of existing label arrangements – even if not optimum.

The reverse sequence should also be understood. Considering Figure 4 in the order C-B-A, it can be understood how the fluid movement element (42) can act to not only apply fluid to the sample (1) (as in the A-B-C case) but also to eliminate the fluid from a sample (1) (as in the C-B-A case). Again, with Figure 4C depicting two surfaces in close proximity to each other, when the surfaces are moved apart in an angular fashion, they may ask to eliminate fluid from the exterior sample area (4) of the sample (1). As shown in Figure 4B as the surfaces or perhaps the microscopic slides (8) are moved apart, the fluidic substance (10) may start moving back toward the hinged movement element (47). As the two surfaces continue to increase their angular movement, a full elimination of fluid can occur. Ultimately it may be sufficient that the fluidic substance (10) is moved beyond the exterior surface area (4) of the sample (1) and is ultimately collected in some other location. Thus, as can be understood how to Figure 4A, collected fluidic substance (36) may exist as a result of the motive force element (23) acting upon the fluidic substance (10). Once eliminated from an exterior sample area (4), the collected fluidic substance (36) can become mixed to some degree and can be ready for reapplication.

Naturally a variety of spacings are also possible. In the embodiment shown in Figure 4C, in the close proximity position, the surfaces may be substantially parallel even though not perfectly parallel. The distances between the two surfaces can vary based on the particular needs of the substance (5) or perhaps the sample (1). In instances in which the sample processing system (2) is configured for immunohistochemical processing, it may be appropriate to use close proximity surfaces that are separated by 100, 200, 250, and perhaps as little as at most about 300 μm . Furthermore the separation (perhaps of at least one end) can be established by the identifier or perhaps label (50) thicknesses. As shown in Figure 4C, one end of the surfaces may be approximately two label thicknesses apart. Similarly in situations where one of the microscopic slides (8) either does not contain a sample or has no label on it, the microscopic slide (8) may be separated on one end by only one label or identifier thickness.

Referring to Figures 8 and 16-18, it can be seen that a plurality of samples (1) may be held by a plurality of sample holders. In such an arrangement, it can be seen that the microscopic slides (8) may be held in place by some sort of slide retention element, perhaps such as a slide retention spring (51). Of course, other arrangement are possible. In such an arrangement, multiple samples can be processed coincidentally. For convenience, these multiple samples may be placed adjacent to each other and moved as

one. In this configuration, the sample processing system (2) may have a sample holder that serves as a multiple, close proximity, substantially parallel or perhaps planar holder for a particular type of sample, a microscopic slide, or perhaps merely surfaces.

The sample holder may also serve as a multiple, close proximity, substantially
5 parallelly-oriented sample surface pair or perhaps even a proximally paired sample or surface as shown in Figures 16 through 18. As mentioned with reference to Figure 4, it is possible to vary the spacing in order to alter the amount of fluid involved. As shown in Figures 3 and 4, this microenvironment (28) may be within a volume immediately adjacent a sample (1). By capillary or other action causing the elimination or at least
10 substantial elimination of the fluidic substance (10) (some fluidic substance may remain on a sample) the system can act to cause an adequate or even total removal of the microenvironment (28). By eliminating the fluidic substance (10) and pulling it back into a collected fluid substance fluidic substance (36) the fluidic substance (10) may be refreshed and mixed.

15 A variety of fluid volumes may be used of course. In an embodiment and configuration where the system is designed for use to accomplish immunohistochemistry with a microscopic slide, it may be appropriate to move less than or equal to about 300, 225, or even 200 μ l of a fluid. This movement may occur in at least a portion of the restrictively confined fluidic environment and they occur by eliminating the
20 microenvironment (28). Thus, the sample processing system (2) may be considered as having elements configured to move less than or equal to about any of the amounts of fluid mentioned earlier. Through consideration of particular substances and a range of samples, it may be appropriate to move a minimal amount of a substance (5) or perhaps fluidic substance (10). This minimal amount may be an amount that permits adequate
25 replenishment of a microenvironment (28), or that permits adequate interaction between this sample (1) and the substance (5) in a selected process time period. In situations where there are different or lesser demands on the time for processing it may be possible to even further reduce a volume of fluidic substance (10) and still permit adequate interaction between the sample (1) and the substance (5) in a desired time frame. As such the system
30 may be configured to use a lesser amount of substance, rather than to minimize time.

Figure 6 is a table that shows that a variety of repetitious actions that can be accomplished in one example of a sequence. As shown, the automatically sequenced test processor (3) can repeatedly mix or otherwise act upon a substance (5) or perhaps a sample (1). Referring to step three, it can be noticed that a sequence may be used to
35 initially mix a primary antibody. Such mixing may involve, as but one example, three

sequences where the fluidic substance (10) is pooled as a collected fluidic substance (36) and eliminated from the exterior sample area (4). This may be held for a relative short time period (or no time period at all) such as approximately 1.5 seconds. Similarly, during the initial mix action the fluidic substance (10) may be held exposed to and reapplied to the sample (1) for some time (or again, or no time period at all) such as in one example, two seconds.

Referring to step 4 in the exemplary sequence shown in Figure 6, the values indicate that immediately following this initial fast wave action there may be a slower wave action with exposed incubation lasting perhaps as long as 22 seconds. This may be repeated, perhaps as shown for six times or the like. While this represents but one particular test sequence, in general it should be understood that repeated actions can occur. By its programming the sample processing system (2) or perhaps also the automatically sequenced test processor (3) may be considered as including not only a repetitious action element but also perhaps in this instance a repetitious action fluid wave element. Through steps such as the steps three and four as shown in Figure 6, the system can act to repeatedly transiently substantially eliminating the substance from the sample (1). Naturally other repetitious action elements are possible, and these may include repetitious action elements such as: a repetitious action fluid wave element, as mentioned above, a repetitious action substance elimination element, a repetitious action substance reapplication element, a repetitious action incubation element, or the like. In instances where at least two repetitious actions are contemplated, the system may be considered as having an at least two action repetitious action element, etc. The repetitious actions may occur regularly or perhaps irregularly. In the example shown in Figure 6, this particular sequence of steps three and four involves two different regular time intervals for at least a portion of the overall process. Thus, step three involves three repeats with a regular time interval and step four involves six repeats with a regular time interval. In some embodiment the automatically sequenced test processor (3) may repeatedly reapply at least a portion of a transiently substantially eliminated substance.

The repeating activity may occur more than one, two, three, four or perhaps even five times. As shown in Figure 6, it may occur three times for an initial mixing, six times for a primary antibody incubation and perhaps four times for an initial chromogen or perhaps two-step substance mixing. Similarly, for a counterstain it may occur four times with an incubation or dwell time of perhaps four seconds as shown. In some embodiments particularly those configured for immunohistochemistry, 3, 6 and 9 repetitions may be appropriate for first antibody substances, chromogens, or counterstain substances.

Through this action, it can be understood how the system can act to repeatedly and non-replacingly substantially refresh the substance in a microenvironment (28). This microenvironment may be situated adjacent to the sample to permit shorter partial interaction time as well as a shorter overall processing time in order to permit more rapid
5 processing. Through this action the system can be considered as repeatedly causing a fluid wave within a bounded fluidic environment (15). This can occur with a variety of frequencies including but not limited to the range of times present in the ones specific test sequence shown in Figure 6 as well as other frequencies. As may be understood from the variations shown for the specific substance and sequences indicated in Figure 6, the
10 mixing can occur with differing occurrences for differing substances. This is also true of the elimination and reapplication steps. Furthermore the amount of time a collected fluidic substance (36) is held eliminated from the exterior sample area (4) vary as well.

Figure 15 depicts a perpendicular absorbent wicking roll (52); Figures 7 and 8 depict systems configured with a parallel substance withdrawal element (53) and having
15 upper and lower slide cameras (63 and 64). When any particular fluidic substance (10) has accomplished its function and is no longer needed, that substance (5) may be withdrawn. This withdrawal can occur in a variety of fashions perhaps such as by extending and then retracting the wicking cassette or other substance withdrawal element. The substance be removed from any further interaction, and it may be appropriate to
20 withdraw the substance by some type of wick element. This wick element may also act to capillary withdraw the substance from proximity to the sample (1) upon the completion of at least a portion of the process. As shown in Figure 6, in one representative test sequence, the withdrawal of the fluidic substance (10) can occur multiple times throughout the overall process. For instance, steps 5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 21, etc., indicate that at
25 multiple times a particular substance is withdrawn from the sample (1) as part of the overall test sequence. Withdrawal can also occur at times when no substance is supposed to be on a sample such as that shown in step 1. At this point in time this could be considered unnecessary however it may serve to assure that the sample(s) are dry and ready to begin processing.

30 Figures 11 through 14 and 16, show that chemical interaction may occur where the surfaces are, or at least one surface is, in an untilted orientation. By establishing an untilted surface, it may be easier to facilitate reagent dispensing on a surface such as a microscopic slide (8) such as by extending and retracting a reagent container (55) relative to a desired position or the like. The substance (5) may then be dispensed perhaps drop-
35 wise or in an appropriate metered amount. At times when it is desirable to withdraw a

particular fluidic substance (10) from an exterior sample area (4) from proximity to the sample (1), it may be desirable to facilitate this withdrawal of the substance in some manner. This can be facilitated in a variety of ways. In one embodiment this may include orienting a surface to facilitate the withdrawal of the substance away from proximity to
5 the sample. As shown in Figure 15, this orientation may involve establishing a tilted surface or perhaps tilting the surface to facilitate the wicking away of the substance. This orientation, or perhaps tilting, can occur at a variety of angles and can establish either an upper or lower surface at a given angle or perhaps a bisected angle at a given angle relative to horizontal. This bisected angle may actually be a line in between the two
10 surfaces and may be oriented at a particular angle. As shown in Figure 15 in one embodiment the orientation may be the tilting of a bisected angle (54) at an angle such as 45°. In this configuration, the surface, perhaps a lower glass microscope slide (45), may be established at perhaps greater than 30° or even 22 ½°. Similarly the upper surface such as the upper glass microscope slide (43) may be established at a different angle perhaps
15 60° or 67.5°. In this fashion it can be understood that the withdrawal of the fluidic substance by something such as the perpendicular wicking roll (52) as shown in Figure 15 or perhaps the more general substance withdrawal element (53) such as perhaps a wicking cassette or the like may be moved into position to withdraw a liquid that has collected closer to the hinged movement element (47). Of course, 90° could be used for any surface
20 or perhaps even for the bisected angle (54). In some configurations it may be appropriate to establish a tilted bisected angle (54) between the two surfaces while accomplishing the step of wicking or more generally withdrawing a substance (5) from proximity to the sample (1). This may also occur with one surface untilted such as might be desired to eliminate some movement element or motor or the like.

25 An aspect of some embodiments may be the fact that the sample process system (2) may act substantially coincidentally on all samples contained. From Figures 10, 16, 17, 18, and 19 it may be understood that one appropriate configuration of the system may present a substantially coincident sample treatment element to which multiple samples are responsive. In the configuration shown this may involve the multiple sample holders
30 shown. Such a system may also involve the use of individual or location specific reagent containers (55). These may dispense from a side actuator button (61) as shown in Figure 19, from a top actuator (62) as shown in Figures 20-24, or otherwise. As shown in Figure 3, the reagent containers (55) can move or otherwise place reagent on each microscopic slide pair. Further, as may be understood from Figures 20-24, the reagent containers (55)
35 may be configured to include one or more of a cartridge (65) or a magazine (66). The

cartridge (65) may be a container for a single antibody substance or the like, perhaps such as the primary antibody substance. The magazine may be a single container for multiple substances with multiple chambers and thus may present a single container multiple chamber multiple fluidic substance magazine. It may also be configured in somewhat of a line and thus present a linear reagent magazine such as is shown in one embodiment.

Appropriate mechanisms and software can achieve sampling and other processing on all samples coincidentally. Thus the samples may be treated virtually identically in terms of the process sequences while yet having their own particular substance selections as may be appropriate. This may involve not only coincidentally acting all in all samples but also substantially evenly subjecting all samples to an appropriate fluidic reactive substance such as at the same time or the like. All actions may even occur coincidentally in some embodiments. The system though its programming may be considered as including a substantially coincident sample treatment element. This substantially coincident sample treatment element may also act substantially evenly with respect to its movement actions.

As may be understood with reference to Figure 9, it can be seen that different primary antibody substances and even different to other substances may be included for individual slide locations. Thus, different substances may be dispensed while yet permitting all samples to be treated substantially evenly and perhaps coincidentally.

As can be easily understood from the foregoing, the basic concepts of the present invention may be embodied in a variety of ways. It involves both processing techniques as well as devices to accomplish the appropriate processing. In this application, the processing techniques are disclosed as part of the results shown to be achieved by the various devices described, as described steps, and as steps that are inherent to utilization as are simply the natural result of utilizing the devices as intended and described. In addition, while some devices are disclosed, it should be understood that these not only accomplish certain methods but also can be varied in a number of ways. Importantly, as to all of the foregoing, all of these facets should be understood to be encompassed by this disclosure.

The discussion included is intended to serve as a basic description. The reader should be aware that the specific discussion may not explicitly describe all embodiments possible; many alternatives are implicit. It also may not fully explain the generic nature of the invention and may not explicitly show how each feature or element can actually be representative of a broader function or of a great variety of alternative or equivalent elements. Again, these are implicitly included in this disclosure. Where the invention is

described in device-oriented terminology, each element of the device implicitly performs a function. Apparatus claims and method or process claims are support regardless of the nature of the discussion.

A variety of changes may be made without departing from the essence of the invention. Such changes are also implicitly included in the description. They still fall within the scope of this invention. A broad disclosure encompassing both the explicit embodiments shown, the great variety of implicit alternative embodiments, and the broad methods or processes and the like are encompassed by this disclosure. It also should be understood that language changes and broader or more detailed claiming may be accomplished at a later date. With this understanding, the reader should be aware that this disclosure is to be understood to support as broad or narrow a base of claims as deemed within the applicant's right and may be designed to yield a patent covering numerous aspects of the invention both independently and as an overall system.

Further, each of the various elements of the invention and claims may also be achieved in a variety of manners. Additionally, when used or implied, an element is to be understood as encompassing individual as well as plural structures that may or may not be physically connected. This disclosure should be understood to encompass each such variation, be it a variation of an embodiment of any apparatus embodiment, a method or process embodiment, or even merely a variation of any element of these. Particularly, it should be understood that as the disclosure relates to elements of the invention, the words for each element may be expressed by equivalent apparatus terms or method terms -- even if only the function or result is the same. Such equivalent, broader, or even more generic terms should be considered to be encompassed in the description of each element or action. Such terms can be substituted where desired to make explicit the implicitly broad coverage to which this invention is entitled. As but one example, it should be understood that all actions may be expressed as a means for taking that action or as an element which causes that action. Similarly, each physical element disclosed should be understood to encompass a disclosure of the action which that physical element facilitates. Regarding this last aspect, as but one example, the disclosure of a "dispenser" should be understood to encompass disclosure of the act of "dispensing" -- whether explicitly discussed or not - and, conversely, were there effectively disclosure of the act of "dispensing", such a disclosure should be understood to encompass disclosure of a "dispenser" and even a "means for dispensing." Such changes and alternative terms are to be understood to be explicitly included in the description.

Any patents, publications, or other references mentioned in this application for patent are hereby incorporated by reference. In addition, as to each term used it should be understood that unless its utilization in this application is inconsistent with a broadly supporting interpretation, common dictionary definitions should be understood as incorporated for each term and all definitions, alternative terms, and synonyms such as contained in the Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, second edition are hereby incorporated by reference. Finally, all references listed in following list of references or other documents or references filed with the application are hereby appended and hereby incorporated by reference, however, as to each of these, to the extent that such information or statements incorporated by reference might be considered inconsistent with the patenting of this/these invention(s) such statements are expressly not to be considered as made by the applicant(s):

I. U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

15

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II. OTHER DOCUMENTS

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Thus, the applicant should be understood to have support to claim and make a statement of invention to at least: i) each of the processing devices as herein disclosed and described, ii) the related methods disclosed and described, iii) similar, equivalent, and even implicit variations of each of these devices and methods, iv) those alternative designs which accomplish each of the functions shown as are disclosed and described, v) those alternative designs and methods which accomplish each of the functions shown as are implicit to accomplish that which is disclosed and described, vi) each feature, component, and step shown as separate and independent inventions, vii) the applications enhanced by the various systems or components disclosed, viii) the resulting products produced by such systems or components, ix) each system, method, and element shown or described as now applied to any specific field or devices mentioned, x) methods and apparatuses substantially as described hereinbefore and with reference to any of the accompanying examples, xi) the various combinations and permutations of each of the elements disclosed, and xii) each potentially dependent claim or concept as a dependency on each and every one of the independent claims or concepts presented. In addition and as to computer aspects and each aspect amenable to programming or other electronic automation, the applicant should be understood to have support to claim and make a statement of invention to at least: xiii) processes performed with the aid of or on a computer as described throughout the above discussion, xiv) a programmable apparatus as described throughout the above discussion, xv) a computer readable memory encoded with data to direct a computer comprising means or elements which function as described throughout the above discussion, xvi) a computer configured as herein disclosed and

described, xvii) individual or combined subroutines and programs as herein disclosed and described, xviii) the related methods disclosed and described, xix) similar, equivalent, and even implicit variations of each of these systems and methods, xx) those alternative designs which accomplish each of the functions shown as are disclosed and described, 5 xxi) those alternative designs and methods which accomplish each of the functions shown as are implicit to accomplish that which is disclosed and described, xxii) each feature, component, and step shown as separate and independent inventions, and xxiii) the various combinations and permutations of each of the above.

With regard to claims now or later presented for examination, it should be 10 understood that for practical reasons and so as to avoid great expansion of the examination burden, the applicant may at any time present only initial claims or perhaps only initial claims with only initial dependencies. Support should be understood to exist to the degree required under new matter laws -- including but not limited to European Patent Convention Article 123(2) and United States Patent Law 35 USC 132 or other such 15 laws-- to permit the addition of any of the various dependencies or other elements presented under one independent claim or concept as dependencies or elements under any other independent claim or concept. In drafting any claims at any time whether in this application or in any subsequent application, it should also be understood that the applicant has intended to capture as full and broad a scope of coverage as legally 20 available. To the extent that insubstantial substitutes are made, to the extent that the applicant did not in fact draft any claim so as to literally encompass any particular embodiment, and to the extent otherwise applicable, the applicant should not be understood to have in any way intended to or actually relinquished such coverage as the applicant simply may not have been able to anticipate all eventualities; one skilled in the 25 art, should not be reasonably expected to have drafted a claim that would have literally encompassed such alternative embodiments.

Further, if or when used, the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" is used to maintain the "open-end" claims herein, according to traditional claim interpretation. Thus, unless the context requires otherwise, it should be understood that the term 30 "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", are intended to imply the inclusion of a stated element or step or group of elements or steps but not the exclusion of any other element or step or group of elements or steps. Such terms should be interpreted in their most expansive form so as to afford the applicant the broadest coverage legally permissible.

Finally, any claims set forth at any time are hereby incorporated by reference as part of this description of the invention, and the applicant expressly reserves the right to use all of or a portion of such incorporated content of such claims as additional description to support any of or all of the claims or any element or component thereof, 5 and the applicant further expressly reserves the right to move any portion of or all of the incorporated content of such claims or any element or component thereof from the description into the claims or vice-versa as necessary to define the matter for which protection is sought by this application or by any subsequent continuation, division, or continuation-in-part application thereof, or to obtain any benefit of, reduction in fees 10 pursuant to, or to comply with the patent laws, rules, or regulations of any country or treaty, and such content incorporated by reference shall survive during the entire pendency of this application including any subsequent continuation, division, or continuation-in-part application thereof or any reissue or extension thereon.

6. Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of histochemical sample processing comprising the steps of:
- a. obtaining a sample;
 - b. establishing said sample on a slide;
 - c. selecting a histochemical test sequence for said sample, said histochemical
10 test sequence having a traditional completion time by which desired results
may be chemically expected;
 - d. subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to an
appropriate fluidic reactive substance for said histochemical test sequence
wherein said appropriate fluidic reactive substance has a recommended
15 reaction period within which said appropriate fluidic reactive substance is
anticipated to achieve an acceptable level of reactivity as part of said
histochemical test sequence;
 - e. establishing an intentionally shortened reaction period for said appropriate
fluidic reactive substance as part of said histochemical test sequence;
 - f. establishing a firmly bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of said
20 exterior sample area on said slide at least in part through the presence of
said appropriate fluidic reactive substance;
 - g. initially permitting an interaction between said sample and said
appropriate fluidic reactive substance within at least a portion of said
firmly bounded fluidic environment;
 - 25 h. automatically applying a motive force to a firm fluidic boundary element;
 - i. automatically affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded
fluidic environment;
 - j. enhancing said interaction substantially along at least a portion of said
firmly bounded fluidic environment as a result of said step of
30 automatically affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded
fluidic environment;
 - k. limiting a period within which said appropriate fluidic reactive substance
may substantially react with said sample to said intentionally shortened
reaction period;

- l. automatically processing said histochemical test sequence in less than said traditional completion time; and
 - m. accomplishing said desired results for said histochemical test sequence in less than said traditional completion time.
- 5
2. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 1, wherein said step of automatically affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment comprises the step of affirmatively initiating an oscillatory fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment.
- 10
3. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 2, wherein said step of subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to an appropriate fluidic reactive substance comprises the steps of:
 - substantially coincidentally subjecting at least a portion of an exterior
 - 15 sample area of at least two samples to said appropriate fluidic reactive substance; and
 - substantially evenly subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to said appropriate fluidic reactive substance.
- 20
4. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - a. transiently substantially eliminating said appropriate fluidic reactive substance from said sample; and
 - b. reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated
 - 25 appropriate fluidic reactive substance to said sample.
5. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 4, further comprising the step of decreasing said firmly bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 30
6. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 5, further comprising the step of increasing said firmly bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.

7. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 4, wherein said step of automatically affirmatively initiating a fluid wave comprises the step of capillary displacing a fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 5
8. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 7, further comprising the step of causing hinged movement between a first surface relative to a second surface.
- 10 9. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a detection indication in a reduced detection time period selected from the group consisting of:
- the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 20 minutes,
 - 15 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 15 minutes, and
 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about the College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines.
- 20
10. A method of histochemical sample processing as described in claim 7, further comprising the step of momentarily holding said appropriate fluidic reactive substance eliminated from said sample.
- 25 11. A method of sample processing comprising the steps of:
- a. obtaining a sample;
 - b. subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to at least one fluidic substance;
 - c. establishing a firmly bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of said exterior sample area at least in part through the presence of said fluidic substance;
 - 30 d. automatically affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment;

- e. allowing said fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment to occur for at least some period of time in said firmly bounded fluidic environment;
- f. automatically substantially stopping said fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment;
- 5 g. substantially eliminating said firmly bounded fluidic environment from in the immediate vicinity of said exterior sample area; and
- h. substantially withdrawing said fluidic substance from said exterior sample area of said sample.
- 10
12. A method of sample processing as described in claim 11 wherein said step of affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment comprises the step of affirmatively initiating an oscillatory fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment.
- 15
13. A method of sample processing as described in claim 12 wherein the step of obtaining a sample comprises the step of obtaining a thin biologic sample.
14. A method of sample processing as described in claim 13 wherein the step of obtaining a thin biologic sample comprises the step of obtaining a biopsy sample.
- 20
15. A method of sample processing as described in claim 14 and further comprising the step of establishing said sample on a microscopic slide.
- 25 16. A method of sample processing as described in claim 15 wherein said step of establishing said sample on a microscopic slide comprises the step of establishing at least one pair of opposing microscopic slides.
17. A method of sample processing as described in claim 11 wherein said step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance.
- 30
18. A method of sample processing as described in claim 17 wherein said step of permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance

comprises the step of permitting a chemical reaction to occur between said sample and said substance.

19. A method of sample processing as described in claim 18 wherein said step of
5 permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance
comprises the step of permitting a chemical reaction to occur between said sample
and an antibody substance.
20. A method of sample processing as described in claim 18 and further comprising
10 the step of accomplishing a histochemical process.
21. A method of sample processing as described in claim 20 wherein said step
accomplishing a histochemical process selected from steps consisting of:
- accomplishing a histochemical process comprises the step of
 - 15 - accomplishing a histochemical process selected from steps consisting of:
 - accomplishing an immunohistochemistry process,
 - accomplishing an immunocytochemistry process,
 - accomplishing an in situ hybridization process,
 - accomplishing a fluorescent in situ hybridization process,
 - 20 - accomplishing a chromosomal identification process,
 - accomplishing a staining process,
 - accomplishing an antigen retrieval process,
 - accomplishing a cytochemical process,
 - accomplishing a molecular chemical process,
 - 25 - accomplishing an epitope retrieval process, and
 - accomplishing a pretreatment process.
22. A method of sample processing as described in claim 17 wherein the step of
affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment
30 comprises the step of increasing said restrictively confined fluidic environment in
the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
23. A method of sample processing as described in claim 22 wherein the step of
affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment

comprises the step of decreasing said restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.

24. A method of sample processing as described in claim 23 wherein the step of affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment comprises the step of capillary displacing a fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
25. A method of sample processing as described in claim 11 wherein the step of affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- repeating said step more than once,
 - repeating said step two times,
 - repeating said step more than two times,
 - repeating said step three times,
 - repeating said step more than three times,
 - repeating said step four times,
 - repeating said step more than four times,
 - repeating said step five times, and
 - repeating said step more than five times.
26. A method of sample processing as described in claim 11 wherein the step of affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment comprises a step selected from a group consisting of the steps of:
- moving less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance,
 - moving a minimal amount of said a fluid,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and

- moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.

27. A method of sample processing comprising the steps of:
- 5 a. obtaining a sample;
- b. subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to at least one fluidic substance;
- c. establishing a multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of said exterior sample area;
- 10 d. initially permitting an interaction between said sample and said fluidic substance within at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment;
- e. automatically applying a motive force substantially along at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment;
- 15 f. enhancing said interaction substantially along at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment as a result of said step of applying said motive force substantially along at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment;
- 20 g. allowing enhanced interaction to occur for at least some period of time along said restrictively confined fluidic environment; and
- h. automatically processing said sample.
28. A method of sample processing as described in claim 27 wherein said step of
- 25 automatically applying a motive force comprises the step of automatically applying a motive force to a firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element.
29. A method of sample processing as described in claim 27 wherein the step of processing said sample comprises the step of accomplishing an
- 30 immunohistochemistry process.
30. A method of sample processing as described in claim 29 wherein the step of obtaining a sample comprises the step of obtaining a thin biologic sample.

31. A method of sample processing as described in claim 30 wherein said step of
subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to at least
one fluidic substance comprises the steps of:
- substantially coincidentally subjecting at least a portion of an exterior
sample area of at least two samples to at least one fluidic substance; and
 - substantially evenly subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area
of said sample to at least one fluidic substance.
32. A method of sample processing as described in claim 31 the step of obtaining a
thin biologic sample comprises the step of obtaining a biopsy sample.
33. A method of sample processing as described in claim 32 and further comprising
the step of establishing said sample on a microscopic slide.
34. A method of sample processing as described in claim 33 wherein said step of
establishing said sample on a microscopic slide comprises the step of establishing
at least one pair of opposing microscopic slides.
35. A method of sample processing as described in claim 29 wherein said step of
subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of permitting a chemical
interaction to occur between said sample and said substance.
36. A method of sample processing as described in claim 35 wherein said step of
permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance
comprises the step of permitting a chemical reaction to occur between said sample
and said substance.
37. A method of sample processing as described in claim 36 wherein said step of
permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance
comprises the step of permitting a chemical reaction to occur between said sample
and an antibody substance.
38. A method of sample processing as described in claim 36 wherein the step of
accomplishing a biochemical process comprises the step of accomplishing a
biochemical process selected from steps consisting of:

- accomplishing an immunohistochemistry process,
 - accomplishing an immunocytochemistry process,
 - accomplishing an in situ hybridization process,
 - accomplishing a fluorescent in situ hybridization process,
 - 5 - accomplishing a chromosomal identification process,
 - accomplishing a staining process,
 - accomplishing an antigen retrieval process,
 - accomplishing a cytochemical process,
 - accomplishing a molecular chemical process,
 - 10 - accomplishing an epitope retrieval process, and
 - accomplishing a pretreatment process.
39. A method of sample processing as described in claim 35 and further comprising the step of repeatedly transiently substantially eliminating said substance from
- 15 said sample and the step of repeatedly reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated substance to said sample.
40. A method of sample processing as described in claim 39 wherein said steps of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample and
- 20 reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated substance to said sample comprises a step selected from a group consisting of the steps of:
- moving less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
 - 25 - moving a minimal amount of said substance,
 - moving a minimal amount of said a fluid,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a
 - 30 microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.

41. A method of rapid biochemical processing comprising the steps of:
- a. obtaining a sample;
 - b. selecting a biochemical test sequence for said sample, said biochemical test sequence having a traditional completion time by which desired results may be chemically expected;
 - c. subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to an appropriate reactive substance for said biochemical test sequence wherein said reactive substance has a recommended reaction period within which said appropriate reactive substance is anticipated to achieve an acceptable level of reactivity as part of said biochemical test sequence;
 - d. establishing an intentionally shortened reaction period for said appropriate reactive substance as part of said biochemical test sequence;
 - e. applying said appropriate reactive substance to said sample as part of said biochemical test sequence;
 - f. limiting a period within which said appropriate reactive substance may substantially react with said sample to said intentionally shortened reaction period;
 - g. automatically processing said biochemical test sequence in less than said traditional completion time; and
 - h. accomplishing said desired results for said biochemical test sequence in less than said traditional completion time.
42. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 41 wherein said step of selecting a biochemical test sequence for said sample is selected from a group consisting of:
- selecting a histochemical test sequence for said sample, and
 - selecting a cytochemical test sequence for said sample.
43. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 41 wherein said step of subjecting said sample to an appropriate reactive substance for said biochemical test sequence comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a fluidic substance.

44. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 43 wherein said step of accomplishing said desired results for said biochemical test sequence comprises the step of accomplishing an immunohistochemistry process.
- 5 45. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 44 and further comprising the step of affirmatively avoiding depletion of said substance in a sample interface microenvironment.
- 10 46. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 45 wherein the step of affirmatively avoiding depletion of said substance in a sample interface microenvironment comprises the step of accomplishing substantial mixing within said sample interface microenvironment.
- 15 47. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 45 and further comprising the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a microenvironment adjacent said sample.
- 20 48. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 47 wherein the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a microenvironment adjacent said sample comprises:
a. transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample; and
b. reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated substance to said sample.
- 25 49. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 48 wherein said biochemical processing comprises immunohistochemistry processing.
- 30 50. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 44 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to an antibody substance.
- 35 51. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 50 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to an antibody substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a reduced antibody substance binding time period.

52. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 44 wherein said step of accomplishing said desired results for said biochemical test sequence comprises the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample.
- 5
53. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 52 wherein the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample comprises the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample in a reduced biological substance detection time period.
- 10
54. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 53 wherein the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample in a reduced biological substance detection time period use further comprises the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a substance selected from a group consisting of:
- 15
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a carcinomic indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a tumor indicative substance within said sample, and
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a phagocytic indicative substance within said sample.
- 20
55. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 52 wherein the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample further comprises the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a substance selected from a group consisting of:
- 25
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a lymph node indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a transplant procedure indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a tumor differentiation indicative substance within said sample,
- 30

- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- 5 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a mohs mapping
- 10 indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a margin indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a h.pylori diagnosis indicative substance within said sample,
- 15 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a therapeutic marker indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a chorionic villi tissue indicative substance within said sample, and
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a neonatal herpes
- 20 indicative substance within said sample.

56. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 53 wherein the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample in a reduced biological substance
- 25 detection time period comprises the step of providing a detection indication of in a reduced detection time period selected from a group consisting of:
- the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 60 minutes,
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 45
 - 30 minutes,
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 30 minutes,
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 20 minutes,

- the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 15 minutes,
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 12 minutes,
 - 5 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about 10 minutes,
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about a visiting outpatient procedure time limit,
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about an
10 intraoperative procedure time limit, and
 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about the College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines.
57. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 44 wherein the
15 step of subjecting said sample to a substance further comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a chromogen.
58. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 57 wherein the
20 step of subjecting said sample to a chromogen comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a reduced chromogen reaction time period.
59. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 44 wherein the
25 step of subjecting said sample to a substance further comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a cellular substance counterstain.
60. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 59 wherein the
step of subjecting said sample to a cellular substance counterstain comprises the
step of subjecting said sample to a reduced counterstain binding time period.
- 30 61. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 44 and further comprising the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance.
62. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 61 wherein the
35 step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said

substance comprises the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance selected from a group consisting of:

- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 75% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 50% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 30% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 23% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance, and
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 18% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance.

63. A method of rapid biochemical processing as described in claim 61 wherein the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance comprises the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance selected from a group consisting of:
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds,

- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,

- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 5 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 10 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 15 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds, and
- 20 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds.
- 25
- 64. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 43 and further comprising the step of accomplishing a biochemical process.
- 65. A method as described in claim 64 wherein the step of accomplishing a biochemical process comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
 - 30 - accomplishing an immunohistochemistry process,
 - accomplishing an immunocytochemistry process,
 - accomplishing an in situ hybridization process,
 - accomplishing a fluorescent in situ hybridization process,
 - 35 - accomplishing a chromosomal identification process,

- accomplishing a staining process,
 - accomplishing an antigen retrieval process,
 - accomplishing a cytochemical process,
 - accomplishing a histochemical process,
 - 5 - accomplishing a molecular chemical process,
 - accomplishing an epitope retrieval process, and
 - accomplishing a pretreatment process.
66. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of subjecting said
10 sample to a substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a
histochemical probe.
67. A method as described in claim 66 wherein said histochemical probe comprises an
antibody substance.
- 15 68. A method as described in claim 67 wherein said antibody substance has a
traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein the step of
subjecting said sample to an antibody substance comprises the step of subjecting
said sample to a reduced antibody substance binding time period.
- 20 69. A method as described in claim 67 wherein said antibody substance comprises a
low affinity antibody substance.
70. A method as described in claim 69 wherein said low affinity antibody substance
25 comprises a low affinity antibody substance selected from a group consisting of:
- an antibody substance that traditionally binds less than about one-half of its
typical eventual amount by about 120 seconds of processing under normal
temperature conditions,
- an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 120 seconds of
30 processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its
typical eventual amount,
- an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 150 seconds of
processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its
typical eventual amount,

- an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 180 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its typical eventual amount, and
- an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 240 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its typical eventual amount.

71. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of subjecting at least a portion of an exterior sample area of said sample to said substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a substance selected from a group consisting of:

- a histochemical process substance,
- a cytochemical process substance,
- an immuno fluorescent substance,
- an immuno gold substance,
- an immuno gold sliver enhanced substance,
- an immuno cytochemical substance,
- an immuno histochemical substance,
- a fluorescent molecule substance,
- a primary antibody substance,
- a secondary antibody substance,
- a chromogen substance, and
- a counterstain substance.

72. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance.

73. A method as described in claim 72 wherein the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature binding time period for said substance comprises the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance selected from a group consisting of:

- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 75% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,

- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 50% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 30% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 23% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance, and
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than about 18% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance.
74. A method as described in claim 72 wherein the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance comprises the step of utilizing a reduced unelevated temperature interaction time period for said substance selected from a group consisting of:
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds,
 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,

- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 5 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 10 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 15 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 20 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 25 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 30 - utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally

- accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds, and
- utilizing an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds.
75. A method as described in claim 67 wherein said antibody substance comprises biologically specialized proteins.
76. A method as described in claim 75 wherein said biologically specialized proteins comprise biological proteins produced by antigen stimulation.
77. A method as described in claim 76 wherein said biological proteins produced by antigen stimulation comprise B-cell stimulation produced proteins.
78. A method as described in claim 76 wherein said biological proteins produced by an immune response to an antigen comprise an immunoglobulin.
79. A method as described in claim 67 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a substance further comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a chromogen.

80. A method as described in claim 79 wherein said chromogen substance has a traditional unelevated temperature reaction time period and wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a chromogen comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a reduced chromogen reaction time period.
- 5
81. A method as described in claim 79 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a chromogen comprises the steps of:
- subjecting said sample to a first chromogen component; and
 - subjecting said sample to a second chromogen component.
- 10
82. A method as described in claim 79 wherein both said first and second chromogens have a traditional unelevated temperature reaction time period and wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a first chromogen comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a first reduced chromogen reaction time period, and
- 15
- wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a second chromogen comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a second reduced chromogen reaction time period.
83. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of subjecting said
- 20
- sample to a substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a cellular substance stain.
84. A method as described in claim 83 wherein said cellular substance stain has a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein the step of
- 25
- subjecting said sample to a cellular substance stain comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a reduced stain binding time period.
85. A method as described in claim 83 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a substance further comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a cellular
- 30
- substance counterstain.
86. A method as described in claim 85 wherein said cellular substance counterstain has a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a cellular substance counterstain comprises the step of
- 35
- subjecting said sample to a reduced counterstain binding time period.

87. A method as described in claim 83 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a cellular substance stain comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a cellular substance stain selected from a group consisting of:
- 5 - a basophilic stain substance,
 - an acidophilic stain substance,
 - a hematoxylin stain substance,
 - an eosin stain substance,
 - an eosinophilic stain substance,
 - 10 - an H&E stain substance,
 - a Lee's stain substance,
 - a Mallory's connective tissue stain substance,
 - a periodic acid-Schiff stain substance,
 - a phosphotungstic acid hematoxylin stain substance,
 - 15 - a silver stain substance,
 - a Sudan stain substance,
 - a Wright's stain substance,
 - a Verhoeff stain substance,
 - a trichrome stain substance,
 - 20 - a geimsa stain substance,
 - a tristologic substance,
 - a cytologic substance,
 - a biomolecular substance, and
 - a substance that contains any combinations of the above.
- 25
88. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample.
- 30 89. A method as described in claim 88 wherein said step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample has a traditional unelevated temperature detection time period and wherein the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample comprises the step of providing a

detection indication of the presence of a specific type of biological substance within said sample in a reduced biological substance detection time period.

90. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of
5 providing a detection indication of the presence of a substance selected from a group consisting of:
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a tumor indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a phagocytic
10 indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pathologically indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a non-pathologically indicative substance within said sample,
 - 15 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a lymphoma indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a melanoma indicative substance within said sample, and
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a carcinoma
20 indicative substance within said sample.
91. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of
providing a detection indication of the presence of a substance selected from a group consisting of:
- 25 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a lymph node indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a transplant procedure indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a tumor
30 differentiation indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric pathology indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,

- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- 5 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a mohs mapping indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a margin indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a h.pylori
- 10 diagnosis indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a therapeutic marker indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a chorionic villi tissue indicative substance within said sample,
- 15 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a neonatal herpes indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a virally indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a bacterially
- 20 indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a infectious indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a diagnostic indicative substance within said sample, and
- 25 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a molecular indicative substance within said sample.

92. A method as described in claim 89 wherein the said step of providing a detection indication in a reduced detection time period comprises the step of providing a
- 30 detection indication in a reduced detection time period selected from a group consisting of:
- the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 60 minutes,
 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to
 - 35 about 45 minutes,

- the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 30 minutes,
 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 20 minutes,
 - 5 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 15 minutes,
 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 12 minutes,
 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about 10 minutes,
 - 10 - the step of providing a detection indication in less than or equal to about a visiting outpatient procedure time limit,
 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about an intraoperative procedure time limit, and
 - 15 - the step of providing a histochemical detection indication in less than or equal to about the College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines.
93. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a reagent.
- 20 94. A method as described in claim 11, 27 or 41 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a reagent comprises the step of subjecting said sample to an antibody substance.
- 25 95. A method as described in claim 94 wherein said antibody substance has a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature binding, and further comprising the step of accomplishing a significant percentage of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period selected from a group consisting of:
- 30 - the step of accomplishing greater than or equal to about 70% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
- the step of accomplishing greater than or equal to about 80% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
- 35

- the step of accomplishing greater than or equal to about 90% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
 - the step of accomplishing greater than or equal to about 95% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
 - the step of accomplishing greater than or equal to about 98% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period, and
 - the step of accomplishing substantially all of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period.
96. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the steps of:
- subjecting said sample to a primary antibody substance;
 - subjecting said sample to a secondary antibody substance; and
 - subjecting said sample to a chromogen substance.
97. A method as described in claim 96 wherein said step of subjecting said sample to a substance further comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a counterstain substance.
98. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of obtaining a sample comprises the step of obtaining a sample selected from a group consisting of:
- obtaining a biologic sample,
 - obtaining a cellular sample, and
 - obtaining a tissue sample.
99. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein the step of obtaining a sample comprises the step of obtaining a thin biologic sample.
100. A method as described in claim 99 wherein the step of obtaining a thin biologic sample comprises the step of obtaining a biopsy sample.

101. A method as described in claim 98 and further comprising the step of incubating said sample and said substance for a period of time after accomplishing said step of subjecting said sample to said substance.
- 5
102. A method as described in claim 101 wherein said step of incubating said sample and said substance for a period of time after accomplishing said step of subjecting said sample to said substance comprises the step of incubating said sample and said substance for a period of time at an unelevated temperature after
- 10 accomplishing said step of subjecting said sample to said substance.
103. A method as described in claim 102 wherein the step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of subjecting said sample to a substance selected from a group consisting of:
- 15 - the step of subjecting said sample to a low affinity antibody substance,
- the step of subjecting said sample to a heat sensitive antibody substance,
- the step of subjecting said sample to a temperature sensitive antibody substance,
- the step of subjecting said sample to a cold sensitive antibody substance,
- the step of subjecting said sample to a monovalent antibody substance,
20 - the step of subjecting said sample to a multivalent antibody substance,
- the step of subjecting said sample to a biomolecular substance, and
- the step of subjecting said sample to an organic substance.
104. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 43 wherein said fluidic substance
- 25 comprises a liquid substance.
105. A method as described in claim 104 wherein said liquid substance comprises a surface tension liquid.
- 30 106. A method as described in claim 104 wherein said liquid substance comprises a capillary capable liquid.
107. A method as described in claim 104 wherein said liquid substance comprises a liquid substance selected from a group consisting of:
- 35 - a solution, and

- a suspension.

108. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 43 wherein said fluidic substance comprises a gaseous substance.

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109. A method as described in claim 104 and further comprising the step of establishing said sample on a surface.

110. A method as described in claim 109 wherein said step of establishing said sample on a surface comprises the step of step of establishing said sample on a substantially planar surface.

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111. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of establishing said sample on a microscopic slide.

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112. A method as described in claim 111, and further comprising the step of establishing at least one pair of opposing microscopic slides.

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113. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein said step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance.

25

114. A method as described in claim 113 wherein said step of permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance comprises the step of permitting a chemical reaction to occur between said sample and said substance.

30

115. A method as described in claim 113 wherein said step of permitting a chemical interaction to occur between said sample and said substance comprises the step of permitting a chemical reaction to occur between said sample and an antibody substance.

116. A method as described in claim 41 and further comprising the step of applying a motive force in the vicinity of said sample.

117. A method as described in claim 11 and further comprising the step of applying a motive force to accomplish said step of affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment.
- 5 118. A method as described in claim 27, 116, or 117 wherein the step of applying a motive force comprises the step of displacing a first surface relative to and in close proximity to a second surface.
119. A method as described in claim 27, 116, or 117 wherein the step of applying a
10 motive force comprises the step of moving a fluid in the vicinity of said sample.
120. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the steps of:
a. transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample; and
b. reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated
15 substance to said sample.
121. A method as described in claim 120 wherein said step of transiently substantially
eliminating said substance from said sample comprises the step of repeatedly
transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample and wherein
20 said step of reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially
eliminated substance to said sample comprises the step of repeatedly reapplying at
least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated substance to said
sample.
- 25 122. A method as described in claim 120 wherein said steps of transiently substantially
eliminating said substance from said sample and reapplying at least a portion of
said transiently substantially eliminated substance to said sample comprise steps
selected from a group consisting of the steps of:
- moving less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
30 - moving less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
- moving less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
- moving a minimal amount of said substance,
- moving a minimal amount of a fluid,
- moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment
35 of a microenvironment,

- moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - 5 - moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.
123. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of causing angular movement between a first surface relative to a second surface.
- 10
124. A method as described in claim 123 wherein said step of causing angular movement between a first surface relative to a second surface comprises the step of causing hinged movement between a first surface relative to a second surface.
- 15 125. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of acting substantially coincidentally on more than one sample.
126. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising a step selected from a group consisting of:
- 20
- establishing close proximity surfaces,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented surfaces,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially planar surfaces,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially planar, substantially parallelly-oriented surfaces,
 - 25 - establishing close proximity microscopic slides,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented microscopic slides,
 - establishing close proximity samples,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented samples,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially planar samples,
 - 30 - establishing close proximity, substantially planar, substantially parallelly-oriented samples, and
 - establishing at least one close proximity, substantially parallel sample-surface pair.

127. A method as described in claim 126 wherein each of said steps involves an item, and wherein said step of establishing close proximity items comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- establishing close proximity items about 100 μ m apart,
 - 5 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about 100 μ m apart,
 - establishing close proximity items about 200 μ m apart,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about 200 μ m apart,
 - 10 - establishing close proximity items less than or equal to about 250 μ m apart,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items less than or equal to about 250 μ m apart,
 - establishing close proximity items less than or equal to about 300 μ m apart,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items less than or equal to about 300 μ m apart,
 - 15 - establishing close proximity items about an attached identifier element thickness apart,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about an attached identifier element thickness apart,
 - 20 - establishing close proximity items about two attached identifier element thicknesses apart,
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about two attached identifier element thicknesses apart,
 - establishing close proximity items about a label thickness apart,
 - 25 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about a label thickness apart,
 - establishing close proximity items about two label thicknesses apart, and
 - establishing close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about two label thicknesses apart.
- 30
128. A method as described in claim 27, 116, or 117 wherein said step of applying a motive force comprises the step of hydraulically displacing a fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.

129. A method as described in claim 27, 116, or 117 wherein said step of applying a motive force comprises the step of capillary displacing a fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 5 130. A method as described in claim 41 and further comprising the step of establishing a multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 10 131. A method as described in claim 11 wherein said step of establishing a firmly bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of said exterior sample area through the presence of said fluidic substance comprises the step of establishing a multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 15 132. A method as described in claim 27, 130, or 131 and further comprising the step of increasing said restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 20 133. A method as described in claim 27, 130, or 131 and further comprising the step of decreasing said restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 25 134. A method as described in claim 133 and further comprising the step of decreasing said restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 30 135. A method as described in claim 27, 130, or 131 and further comprising the step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said fluidic environment from in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 35 136. A method as described in claim 135 wherein the step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said fluidic environment from in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area comprises the step of decreasing said restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.

137. A method as described in claim 27, 130, or 131 wherein the step of establishing a multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area comprises the step of establishing an
5 opposing surface multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
138. A method as described in claim 137 and further comprising the step of capillary displacing a fluid in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
- 10 139. A method as described in claim 27, 130, or 131 wherein the step of establishing a multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area comprises the step of establishing a restrictively confined liquid environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an
15 exterior sample area.
140. A method as described in claim 27, 130, or 131 wherein the step of establishing a multidirectional firmly restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area comprises the step of establishing a
20 restrictively confined gaseous environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
141. A method as described in claim 47 wherein the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a microenvironment adjacent said
25 sample comprises the step of repeatedly non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a microenvironment adjacent said sample.
142. A method as described in claim 27 wherein the step of applying said appropriate reactive substance to said sample as part of said histochemical test sequence
30 comprises the step of repeatedly applying said appropriate reactive substance to said sample as part of said histochemical test sequence.
143. A method as described in claim 11 wherein the step of affirmatively initiating a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment comprises the step of
35 repeatedly causing a fluid wave in said firmly bounded fluidic environment.

144. A method as described in claim 141, 142, or 143 wherein said repeated step comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- repeating said step more than once,
 - 5 - repeating said step two times,
 - repeating said step more than two times,
 - repeating said step three times,
 - repeating said step more than three times,
 - repeating said step four times,
 - 10 - repeating said step more than four times,
 - repeating said step five times, and
 - repeating said step more than five times.
145. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of
- 15 mixing said substance during at least a part of a process.
146. A method as described in claim 145 and further comprising the step of incubating said sample in the presence of said substance.
- 20 147. A method as described in claim 145 wherein the step of mixing said substance during at least a part of a process comprises the step of repeatedly mixing said substance during at least a part of a process.
148. A method as described in claim 147 wherein said processing comprises a step
- 25 selected from a group consisting of:
- transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least two times,
 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least three times,
 - 30 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least four times,
 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least five times,
 - initially more rapidly repeating a step of transiently substantially eliminating
 - 35 said substance from said sample;

- secondarily more slowly repeating a step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample;
- conducting a greater number of initial repetitions of a step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample for a chromogen substance;
- 5 - conducting a greater number of initial repetitions of a step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample for a multi-part substance;
- transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about three times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance;
- 10 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about four times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance;
- 15 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about six times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance;
- transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about nine times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance;
- 20 - conducting differing mixing steps for differing substances,
- utilizing differing incubation periods for differing substances,
- utilizing no incubation period for a buffer substance,
- utilizing substantially no incubation period,
- 25 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 90 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 60 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 45 seconds without disturbance;
- 30 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 30 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 22 seconds without disturbance,

- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 20 seconds without disturbance,
 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 15 seconds without disturbance,
 - 5 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 10 seconds without disturbance,
 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 5 seconds without disturbance,
 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 3 seconds without disturbance,
 - 10 - partially incubating a substance for substantially no time without disturbance,
 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 300 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 250 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - 15 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 200 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 150 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - 20 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 20 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 16 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 10 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
 - 25 - repeating a mixing step with differing occurrences for differing substances, and
 - repeating a mixing step multiple times for all substances, and
 - repeating a substance removal step multiple times.
- 30 149. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising a step selected from a group consisting of:
- configuring said process to be conducted in an automated fashion in an operating room time constraint environment,
 - configuring said process to be conducted in an automated fashion in a point of
 - 35 care time constraint environment, and

- configuring said process to be conducted in an automated fashion in an surgery time constraint environment.

150. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein said step of obtaining a
5 sample comprises the step of obtaining a biopsy sample.

151. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein said step of obtaining a
sample comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- obtaining a carcinoma related sample,
10 - obtaining a melanoma related sample,
- obtaining a lymphoma related sample, and
- obtaining a margin testing related sample.

152. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein said step of obtaining a
15 sample comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- obtaining an epithelial cell sample,
- obtaining a lymph node sample,
- obtaining an undifferentiated tumor cell sample,
- obtaining a pediatric cell sample,
20 - obtaining a mohs mapping cell sample,
- obtaining an h.pylori cell sample,
- obtaining a chorionic villi tissue cell sample,
- obtaining a neonatal herpes cell sample, and
- obtaining a proteomics sample.

25
153. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 said step of obtaining a sample
comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a lymph node
indicative substance within said sample,
30 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a transplant
procedure indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a tumor
differentiation indicative substance within said sample,
- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric
35 pathology indicative substance within said sample,

- the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a pathology indicative substance within said sample,
 - 5 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a mohs mapping indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a margin indicative substance within said sample,
 - 10 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a h.pylori diagnosis indicative substance within said sample,
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a therapeutic marker indicative substance within said sample,
 - 15 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a chorionic villi tissue indicative substance within said sample, and
 - the step of providing a detection indication of the presence of a neonatal herpes indicative substance within said sample.
- 20 154. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of substantially eliminating a fluid environment from within the immediate vicinity of said sample.
155. A method as described in claim 154 wherein the step of substantially eliminating a fluid environment from within the vicinity of said sample comprises the step of fluidically eliminating said fluid environment in the vicinity of said sample.
- 25
156. A method as described in claim 154 wherein the step of substantially eliminating a fluid environment from within the immediate vicinity of said sample comprises the step of capillary eliminating said fluid environment from within the immediate vicinity of said sample.
- 30
157. A method as described in claim 156 wherein the step of capillary eliminating said fluid environment from within the immediate vicinity of said sample comprises

the step of decreasing a restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.

158. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 wherein said step of subjecting said sample to a substance comprises the step of capillaryly subjecting said sample to a substance.
159. A method as described in claim 158 wherein the step of capillaryly eliminating said fluid environment from within the immediate vicinity of said sample comprises the step of decreasing a restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of an exterior sample area.
160. A method as described in claim 155 wherein the step of eliminating a fluid environment from within the immediate vicinity of said sample comprises a step selected from a group consisting of the steps of:
- moving less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance,
 - moving a minimal amount of said a fluid,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - moving a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - moving a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.
161. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of withdrawing said substance from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process.
162. A method as described in claim 161 wherein the step of withdrawing said substance from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a

process comprises the step of capillary withdrawing said substance from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process.

163. A method as described in claim 162 wherein the step of capillary withdrawing
5 said substance from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process comprises the step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process.
164. A method as described in claim 163 wherein the step of wicking said substance
10 away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- orienting a surface to facilitate said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - establishing a tilted surface to facilitate said step of wicking said substance away
15 from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - establishing an untilted surface,
 - establishing a tilted surface at at least about 22.5° to facilitate said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - 20 - establishing a tilted surface at at least about 30° to facilitate said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - establishing a tilted surface at at least about 45° to facilitate said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a
25 portion of a process,
 - establishing a tilted surface at at least about 60° to facilitate said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - 30 - establishing a tilted surface at at least about 67.5° while accomplishing said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - establishing a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces while accomplishing said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,

- establishing a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces at at least about 22.5° while accomplishing said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process,
 - establishing a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces at at least about 45° while accomplishing said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process, and
 - establishing a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces at about 90° while accomplishing said step of wicking said substance away from proximity to said sample upon completion of at least a portion of a process.
- 10
165. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed.
- 15 166. A method as described in claim 165 wherein the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed comprises the step of accomplishing a fast fluid application at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed.
- 20 167. A method as described in claim 166 wherein the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed comprises the step of substantially simultaneously and substantially evenly spreading said fluid over said sample.
- 25 168. A method as described in claim 165 wherein the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed comprises the step of accomplishing a fast fluid elimination at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed.
- 30 169. A method as described in claim 165 wherein the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed comprises the step of accomplishing a fluid movement relative to said sample that is faster than a normal capillary movement for a particular configuration.

170. A method as described in claim 165 wherein the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed comprises the step of accomplishing a fast movement of a fluid across said sample.
- 5 171. A method as described in claim 165 wherein the step of accomplishing a fast fluid movement at a speed greater than a capillary movement speed comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- accomplishing a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.05m/s,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.1m/s,
 - 10 - accomplishing a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.125m/s,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.25m/s,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.5m/s,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement of at least equal to about 1m/s,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 1 second,
 - 15 - accomplishing a fluid movement for less than or equal to about one-half second,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 400 milliseconds,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 200 milliseconds,
 - 20 - accomplishing a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 100 milliseconds,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 50 milliseconds,
 - accomplishing a fluid movement that is greater than a meniscus movement speed for a particular configuration, and
 - 25 - accomplishing a fluid movement that is greater than a wicking movement speed for a particular configuration.
172. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of affirmatively avoiding depletion of said substance in a sample interface microenvironment.
- 30
173. A method as described in claim 172 wherein the step of affirmatively avoiding depletion of said substance in a sample interface microenvironment comprises the step of accomplishing substantial mixing within said sample interface microenvironment.
- 35

174. A method as described in claim 173 wherein the step of accomplishing substantial mixing within said localized sample interface environment comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- 5 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 20 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 10 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 5 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - 10 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 2 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 1 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - 15 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 500nm thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 200nm thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 100nm thick sample interface microenvironment,
 - 20 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 50nm thick sample interface microenvironment, and
 - accomplishing substantial mixing at least within an about 10nm thick sample interface microenvironment.
- 25
175. A method as described in claim 11, 27, or 41 and further comprising the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a sample interface microenvironment adjacent said sample.
- 30 176. A method as described in claim 175 wherein the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a sample interface microenvironment adjacent said sample comprises the steps of:
- a. transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample; and
 - b. reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated
- 35 substance to said sample.

177. A method as described in claim 176 wherein the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a sample interface microenvironment adjacent said sample comprises the steps of:
- 5 a. repeatedly transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample; and
- b. repeatedly reapplying at least a portion of said transiently substantially eliminated substance to said sample.
- 10 178. A method as described in claim 175 wherein the step of non-replacingly substantially refreshing said substance in a sample interface microenvironment adjacent said sample comprises the step of substantially coincidentally non-replacingly refreshing said substance in a sample interface microenvironment adjacent said sample.
- 15 179. A method as described in claim 176 and further comprising the step of momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample.
180. A method as described in claim 179 wherein the step of momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample comprises a step selected from a group consisting of:
- 20 - momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample without disturbance,
- momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 500 milliseconds,
- 25 - momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 1000 milliseconds,
- momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 1500 milliseconds, and
- 30 - momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 3 seconds, and
- momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 4 seconds.

181. A method as described in claim 179 wherein the step of momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample comprises the step of repeatedly momentarily holding said substance eliminated from said sample.
- 5 182. A fast histochemical sample processor comprising:
- a. a microscopic slide sample holder;
 - b. at least one fluidic substance source configured to permit the placement of a substance in the vicinity of a sample;
 - c. a firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element configured to permit a
 - 10 restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of said sample on said microscopic slide sample holder;
 - d. a motive force element configured to apply a motive force to said firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element;
 - e. a fluid wave element configured to act in said restrictively confined fluidic
 - 15 environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of said sample; and
 - f. a histochemical processor configured to automatically achieve a histochemical test sequence in less than said traditional completion time while still achieving said desired results.
- 20 183. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 182 wherein said fluid wave element comprises an oscillatory fluid wave element.
184. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 183 wherein said
- 25 microscopic slide sample holder comprises multiple sample holders and further comprising a substantially coincident sample treatment element to which said multiple sample holders are responsive.
185. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 183 wherein said
- 30 fluid wave element comprises a repetitious action fluid wave element.
186. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 185 and further comprising
- a. a substance transient elimination element configured to substantially
 - 35 eliminate said substance from within the immediate vicinity of said sample; and

- b. a substance reapplication element that acts upon at least a portion of said transiently eliminated substance.

187. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 186 wherein said substance transient elimination element comprises a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
188. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 187 substance reapplication element comprises an increasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
189. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 186 wherein said fluid wave element comprises a capillary displacement element.
190. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 189 wherein said capillary displacement element comprises a first and second surface hinged movement element.
191. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 182 wherein said histochemical processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 20 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 15 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about a visiting outpatient procedure time limit,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about an intraoperative procedure time limit, and
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about the College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines.

192. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 189 wherein said capillary displacement element comprises a greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element that causes fluid movement that is faster than a capillary movement speed for a particular configuration.
193. A fast histochemical sample processor as described in claim 189 and further comprising a collected eliminated fluid pause element that acts at least some times after action of said substance transient elimination element.
194. An automated sample processor comprising:
- a sample holder;
 - at least one fluidic substance source;
 - a firm fluidic boundary element configured to permit a bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of a sample on said sample holder;
 - a fluid wave element in said bounded fluidic environment to cause fluid movement in at least a portion of said bounded fluidic environment in the vicinity of a sample on said sample holder.
195. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said fluid wave element comprises an oscillatory fluid wave element.
196. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said fluid wave element comprises a repetitious action fluid wave element.
197. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said fluid wave element comprises:
- a substance transient elimination element configured to substantially eliminate said substance from within the immediate vicinity of said sample; and
 - a substance reapplication element that acts upon at least a portion of said transiently eliminated substance.
198. An automated sample processor as described in claim 195 wherein said sample holder comprises a thin biologic sample holder.

199. An automated sample processor as described in claim 198 wherein said sample holder comprises multiple sample holders and further comprising a substantially coincident sample treatment element to which said multiple sample holders are responsive.
200. An automated sample processor as described in claim 198 wherein said thin biologic sample holder comprises a biopsy sample holder.
201. An automated sample processor as described in claim 200 wherein said sample holder comprises a microscopic slide.
202. An automated sample processor as described in claim 201 wherein said sample holder comprises at least two opposing microscopic slides.
203. An automated sample processor as described in claim 201 wherein said sample processor comprises an automatically sequenced histochemical test processor.
204. An automated sample processor as described in claim 203 wherein said automatically sequenced histochemical test processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- an immunohistochemical processor,
 - an immunocytochemical processor,
 - an in situ hybridization processor,
 - a fluorescent in situ hybridization processor,
 - a chromosomal identification processor,
 - a staining processor,
 - an antigen retrieval processor,
 - a cytochemical processor,
 - a molecular chemical processor,
 - an epitope retrieval processor, and
 - a pretreatment processor.
205. An automated sample processor as described in claim 195 wherein said fluid wave element comprises an increasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.

206. An automated sample processor as described in claim 205 wherein said fluid wave element further comprises a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
- 5 207. An automated sample processor as described in claim 206 wherein said increasing restrictive fluidic confinement element and said decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element comprises a capillary fluid displacement element.
- 10 208. An automated sample processor as described in claim 197 wherein said substance transient elimination element and said substance reapplication element are selected from a group consisting of:
- elements configured to move less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
 - 15 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - 20 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.
 - 25
209. An automated sample processor comprising:
- a. a sample holder;
 - 30 b. at least one fluidic substance source;
 - c. a firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element configured to permit a restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of a sample on said sample holder; and

- d. a motive force element configured to cause fluid movement in at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of a sample on said sample holder.

5 210. An automated sample processor as described in claim 209 wherein said motive force element is configured to apply a motive force to said firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element.

10 211. An automated sample processor as described in claim 209 wherein said sample processor comprises an automatically sequenced immunohistochemical test processor.

212. An automated sample processor as described in claim 211 wherein said sample holder comprises a thin biologic sample holder.

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213. An automated sample processor as described in claim 212 wherein said sample holder comprises multiple sample holders and further comprising a substantially coincident sample treatment element to which said multiple sample holders are responsive.

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214. An automated sample processor as described in claim 212 wherein said motive force element configured to cause fluid movement in at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment comprises a substantially coincident and substantially even fluid spreader element.

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215. An automated sample processor as described in claim 214 wherein said thin biologic sample holder comprises a biopsy sample holder.

30 216. An automated sample processor as described in claim 215 wherein said biopsy sample holder comprises a microscopic slide.

217. An automated sample processor as described in claim 216 wherein said biopsy sample holder comprises at least two opposing microscopic slides.

218. An automated sample processor as described in claim 216 wherein said fluidic substance source comprises an antibody substance source.
219. An automated sample processor as described in claim 209 wherein said biopsy sample holder comprises a microscopic slide and wherein said sample processor comprises an automatically sequenced biochemical test processor selected from a group consisting of:
- an immunohistochemical processor,
 - an immunocytochemical processor,
 - 10 - an in situ hybridization processor,
 - a fluorescent in situ hybridization processor,
 - a chromosomal identification processor,
 - a staining processor,
 - an antigen retrieval processor,
 - 15 - a cytochemical processor,
 - a molecular chemical processor,
 - an epitope retrieval processor, and
 - a pretreatment processor.
- 20 220. An automated sample processor as described in claim 219 and further comprising:
- a. a substance transient elimination element configured to substantially eliminate said substance from within the immediate vicinity of said sample; and
 - b. a substance reapplication element that acts upon at least a portion of said
- 25 transiently eliminated substance.
221. An automated sample processor as described in claim 220 wherein said substance transient elimination element comprises a repetitious action substance transient elimination element, and wherein said substance reapplication element comprises
- 30 a repetitious action substance reapplication element.
222. An automated sample processor as described in claim 221 wherein said repetitious action substance transient elimination element and said repetitious action substance reapplication element are selected from a group consisting of:
- 35 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,

- elements configured to move less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid,
 - 5 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits
 - 10 adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.
- 15
223. An automated sample processor as described in claim 219 wherein said motive force element configured to cause fluid movement in at least a portion of said restrictively confined fluidic environment comprises a first and second surface angular movement element.
- 20
224. An automated sample processor as described in claim 223 wherein said first and second surface angular movement element comprises a first and second surface hinged movement element.
- 25 225. A fast biochemical sample processor comprising:
- a. a sample holder;
 - b. at least one reactive substance source configured to permit the placement of a reactive substance in the vicinity of a sample;
 - c. a biochemically time shortened interaction element automatically
 - 30 configured to establish an intentionally shortened reaction period for said reactive substance as part of a biochemical test sequence wherein said biochemical test sequence has a traditional completion time by which desired results may be chemically expected; and

- d. an automatically sequenced biochemical test processor configured to automatically achieve said biochemical test sequence in less than said traditional completion time while still achieving said desired results.

- 5 226. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 225 wherein said automatically sequenced biochemical test processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- automatically sequenced histochemical test processor, and
 - automatically sequenced cytochemical test processor.
- 10
227. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 225 wherein said reactive substance source comprises a fluidic substance source.
228. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 227 wherein said
15 biochemical sample processor comprises an immunohistochemical processor.
229. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 227 wherein said sample holder comprises a multiple sample holders and further comprising a substantially coincident sample treatment element to which said multiple sample
20 holders are responsive.
230. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 228 and further comprising a sample interface microenvironment affirmative depletion avoidance element.
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231. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 230 wherein said sample interface microenvironment affirmative depletion avoidance element comprises a sample interface microenvironment mix element.
- 30 232. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 230 and further comprising a sample interface microenvironment substance substantial refresher element.

233. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 232 wherein said sample interface microenvironment substance substantial refresher element comprises:
- a. a substance transient elimination element; and
 - 5 b. a substance reapplication element.
234. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 233 wherein said biochemical test sequence comprises an immunohistochemistry process.
- 10 235. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 228 wherein said reactive substance source comprises an antibody substance source.
236. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 235 wherein said antibody substance source provides an antibody substance having a traditional
- 15 unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element comprises a reduced antibody substance binding time period interaction element.
237. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 228 and further
- 20 comprising a process completion element.
238. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 237 wherein said biochemical test sequence has a traditional unelevated temperature detection time period and wherein said process completion element comprises a reduced
- 25 detection time period process completion element.
239. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 238 wherein said sample processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the
 - 30 presence of a carcinomic indicative substance within said sample,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a tumor indicative substance within said sample, and
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a phagocytic indicative substance within said sample.

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240. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 237 wherein said sample processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a lymph node substance,
 - 5 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a transplant procedure indicative substance,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a tumor differentiation indicative substance,
 - 10 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a pediatric pathology indicative substance,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a pediatric non-pathology indicative substance,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a pathology indicative substance,
 - 15 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a non-pathology indicative substance,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a mohs mapping indicative substance,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a margin indicative substance,
 - 20 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a h.pylori diagnosis indicative substance,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a therapeutic marker indicative substance,
 - 25 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a chorionic villi tissue indicative substance, and
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication relative to a neonatal herpes indicative substance.
- 30 241. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 238 wherein said reduced detection time period process completion element comprises a reduced detection time period process completion element selected from a group consisting of:

- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 60 minutes,
- 5 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 45 minutes,
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 30 minutes,
- 10 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 20 minutes,
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 15 minutes,
- 15 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 12 minutes,
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 10 minutes,
- 20 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about a visiting outpatient procedure time limit,
- 25 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about an intraoperative procedure time limit, and
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about the
- 30 College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines.

242. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 228 wherein said antibody substance source comprises a chromogen substance source.

243. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 242 wherein said chromogen substance has a traditional unelevated temperature reaction time period and wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element comprises a reduced chromogen reaction time period interaction element.
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244. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 228 wherein said reactive substance source comprises a cellular substance counterstain source.
245. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 244 wherein said
10 cellular substance counterstain has a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element comprises a reduced counterstain binding time period interaction element.
246. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 228 wherein said
15 substance source provides a substance having a traditional unelevated temperature reaction time period and wherein biochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an intentionally shortened reaction period is selected from a group consisting of:
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element
20 configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 75% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element
25 configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 50% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element
30 configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 30% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 23% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance, and

- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 18% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance.

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247. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 225 wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an intentionally shortened reaction period is selected from a group consisting of:

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- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds,

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- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds,

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- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds,

- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds,

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- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds,

- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds,

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- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds,

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- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,

- 5 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 10 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 15 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 20 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 25 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 30 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 35 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,

- 5 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 10 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 15 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 20 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 25 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds, and
- 30 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds.

248. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 227 wherein said sample processor comprises an automatically sequenced biochemical test processor.

249. A sample processor as described in claim 248 wherein said sample processor comprises an automatically sequenced biochemical test processor selected from a group consisting of:
- an immunohistochemical processor,
 - 5 - an immunocytochemical processor,
 - an in situ hybridization processor,
 - a fluorescent in situ hybridization processor,
 - a chromosomal identification processor,
 - a staining processor,
 - 10 - an antigen retrieval processor,
 - a cytochemical processor,
 - a histochemical processor,
 - a molecular chemical processor,
 - an epitope retrieval processor, and
 - 15 - a pretreatment processor.
250. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said substance source comprises a histochemical probe source.
- 20 251. A sample processor as described in claim 250 wherein said histochemical probe source comprises an antibody substance source.
252. A sample processor as described in claim 251 wherein said antibody substance has a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein said
- 25 biochemically time shortened interaction element comprises a reduced antibody substance binding time period interaction element.
253. A sample processor as described in claim 251 wherein said histochemical probe source comprises a low affinity antibody substance source.
- 30 254. A sample processor as described in claim 253 wherein said low affinity antibody substance source comprises a low affinity antibody substance source selected from a group consisting of:

- an antibody substance source having an antibody substance that traditionally binds less than about one-half of its typical eventual amount by about 120 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions,
- 5 - an antibody substance source having an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 120 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its typical eventual amount,
- an antibody substance source having an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 150 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its typical eventual amount,
- 10 - an antibody substance source having an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 180 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its typical eventual amount, and
- an antibody substance source having an antibody substance that traditionally takes longer than about 240 seconds of processing under normal temperature conditions to bind about one-half of its typical eventual amount.
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255. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said substance source comprises a substance source selected from a group consisting of:
- a histochemical process substance source,
 - 20 - a cytochemical process substance source,
 - an immuno fluorescent substance source,
 - an immuno gold substance source,
 - an immuno gold sliver enhanced substance source,
 - an immuno histochemical substance source,
 - 25 - a fluorescent molecule substance source,
 - a primary antibody substance source,
 - a secondary antibody substance source,
 - a chromogen substance source, and
 - a counterstain substance source.

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256. A sample processor as described in claim 194 or 209 and further comprising a biochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an intentionally shortened reaction period for a substance as part of a biochemical test sequence.

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257. A sample processor as described in claim 256 wherein said substance source provides a substance having a traditional unelevated temperature reaction time period and wherein biochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an intentionally shortened reaction period is selected from a group consisting of:
- 5 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 75% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - 10 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 50% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - 15 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 30% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance,
 - 20 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 23% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance, and
 - 25 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 18% of a traditional unelevated temperature interaction time for a similar amount of interaction for said substance.
258. A sample processor as described in claim 256 wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an intentionally shortened reaction period is selected from a group consisting of:
- 30 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds,
 - 35 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds,

- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds,
- 5 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds,
- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds,
- 10 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds,
- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds,
- 15 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 20 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 25 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 30 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 35 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,

- 5 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 10 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 15 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 50% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 90 seconds,
- 20 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 120 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 25 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 150 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 30 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 180 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- 35 - a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 240 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,

- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 300 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds,
- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 400 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds, and
- a histochemically time shortened interaction element automatically configured to establish an unelevated temperature interaction period that is less than or equal to about 500 seconds for a substance that causes about 80% of a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature interaction in longer than about 660 seconds.

259. A sample processor as described in claim 251 wherein said antibody substance source comprises a biologically specialized protein substance source.
260. A sample processor as described in claim 259 wherein said biologically specialized protein substance source comprises a biological specialized protein substance source containing proteins produced by antigen stimulation.
261. A sample processor as described in claim 260 wherein said biological specialized protein substance source containing proteins produced by antigen stimulation comprises a biological specialized protein substance source containing proteins produced by B cell stimulation.
262. A sample processor as described in claim 260 wherein said biological specialized protein substance source comprises an immunoglobulin substance source.
263. A sample processor as described in claim 251 wherein said antibody substance source comprises a chromogen substance source.

264. A sample processor as described in claim 263 wherein said chromogen has a traditional unelevated temperature reaction time period and wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element comprises a reduced chromogen reaction time period interaction element.

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265. A sample processor as described in claim 263 wherein said chromogen substance source comprises:

- a. a first chromogen component substance source; and
- b. a second chromogen component substance source.

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266. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said substance source comprises a cellular substance stain source.

267. A sample processor as described in claim 266 wherein said cellular substance stain has a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element a reduced counterstain binding time period interaction element.

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268. A sample processor as described in claim 266 wherein said substance source comprises a cellular substance counterstain source.

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269. A sample processor as described in claim 268 wherein said cellular substance counterstain has a traditional unelevated temperature binding time period and fc a reduced counterstain binding time period interaction element.

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270. A sample processor as described in claim 266 wherein said cellular substance stain source comprises a cellular substance stain source selected from a group consisting of:

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- a basophilic stain substance source,
- an acidophilic stain substance source,
- a hematoxylin stain substance source,
- an eosin stain substance source,
- an eosinophilic stain substance source,
- an H&E stain substance source,
- a Lee's stain substance source,

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- a Mallory's connective tissue stain substance source,
 - a periodic acid-Schiff stain substance source,
 - a phosphotungstic acid hematoxylin stain substance source,
 - a silver stain substance source,
 - 5 - a Sudan stain substance source,
 - a Wright's stain substance source,
 - a Verhoeff stain substance source,
 - a trichrome stain substance source,
 - a geimsa stain substance source,
 - 10 - a tristologic substance source,
 - a cytologic substance source,
 - a biomolecular substance source, and
 - a substance source that contains any combinations of the above.
- 15 271. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a process completion element.
272. A sample processor as described in claim 271 wherein said process has a traditional unelevated temperature detection time period and wherein process
- 20 completion element comprises a reduced detection time period process completion element.
273. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- 25 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a tumor indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a phagocytic indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a pathologically indicative substance within said sample,

30 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a non-pathologically indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a lymphoma indicative substance within said sample,

- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a melanoma indicative substance within said sample, and
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a carcinoma indicative substance within said sample.

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274. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample processor is selected from a group consisting of:

- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a lymph node indicative substance within said sample,
- 10 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a transplant procedure indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a tumor differentiation indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- 15 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a pediatric non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- 20 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a non-pathology indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a mohs mapping indicative substance within said sample,
- 25 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a margin indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a h.pylori diagnosis indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a therapeutic marker indicative substance within said sample,
- 30 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a chorionic villi tissue indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication the presence of a neonatal herpes indicative substance within said sample,
- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a virally indicative substance within said sample,
- 35

- a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a bacterially indicative substance within said sample,
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a infectious indicative substance within said sample,
 - 5 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a diagnostic indicative substance within said sample, and
 - a process completion element configured to provide a detection indication of the presence of a molecular indicative substance within said sample.
- 10 275. A sample processor as described in claim 272 wherein said reduced detection time period process completion element comprises a reduced detection time period process completion element selected from a group consisting of:
- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 60
15 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 45 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element
20 configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 30 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 20 minutes,
 - 25 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 15 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 12
30 minutes,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about 10 minutes,

- a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about a visiting outpatient procedure time limit,
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element
5 configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about an intraoperative procedure time limit, and
 - a reduced histochemical detection time period process completion element configured to provide a detection indication in less than or equal to about the College of American Pathologists intraoperative guidelines.
- 10
276. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said substance source comprises a reagent substance source.
277. A sample processor as described in claim 276 wherein said reagent substance
15 source comprises an antibody substance source.
278. A sample processor as described in claim 277 wherein said antibody substance has a traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature binding and wherein said sample processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- 20
- a sample processor configured to accomplish greater than or equal to about 70% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
 - a sample processor configured to accomplish greater than or equal to about 70% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody
25 substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
 - a sample processor configured to accomplish greater than or equal to about 80% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
 - a sample processor configured to accomplish greater than or equal to about 90%
30 of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,
 - a sample processor configured to accomplish greater than or equal to about 95% of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period,

- a sample processor configured to accomplish substantially all of said traditionally accepted total amount of unelevated temperature antibody substance binding in a reduced binding time period.

5 279. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said substance source comprises:

- a. a primary antibody substance source,
- b. a secondary antibody substance source, and
- c. a chromogen substance source.

10

280. A sample processor as described in claim 279 wherein said substance source further comprises a cellular substance counterstain source.

15 281. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample processor is selected from a group consisting of:

- a sample processor configured to process a biologic sample,
- a sample processor configured to process a cellular sample, and
- a sample processor configured to process a tissue sample.

20 282. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample holder comprises a thin biologic sample holder.

283. A sample processor as described in claim 282 wherein said thin biologic sample holder comprises a biopsy sample holder.

25

284. A sample processor as described in claim 281 and further comprising an incubation element.

30 285. A sample processor as described in claim 284 wherein said incubation element comprises an unelevated temperature incubation element.

286. A sample processor as described in claim 285 wherein said substance source comprises a substance source selected from a group consisting of:

- a low affinity antibody substance source,
- 35 - a heat sensitive antibody substance source,

- a temperature sensitive antibody substance source,
 - a cold sensitive antibody substance source,
 - a monovalent antibody substance source,
 - a multivalent antibody substance source,
 - 5 - a biomolecular substance source, and
 - an organic substance source.
287. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 227 wherein said substance source comprises a liquid substance source.
- 10 288. A sample processor as described in claim 287 wherein said liquid substance source comprises a surface tension liquid substance source.
289. A sample processor as described in claim 287 wherein said liquid substance source comprises a capillary fluid substance source.
- 15 290. A sample processor as described in claim 287 wherein said liquid substance source is selected from a group consisting of:
- a solution substance source, and
 - 20 - a suspension substance source.
291. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 227 wherein said substance source comprises a gaseous substance source.
- 25 292. A sample processor as described in claim 287 wherein said sample holder comprises a surface.
293. A sample processor as described in claim 292 wherein said surface comprises a substantially planar surface
- 30 294. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample holder comprises a microscopic slide.
- 295 A sample processor as described in claim 294 wherein said sample holder comprises at least two opposing microscopic slides.
- 35

296. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 225 and further comprising a motive force element configured to cause fluid movement in the vicinity of at least a portion of a sample on said sample holder.
- 5
297. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said fluid wave element comprises a motive force element configured to cause fluid movement in the vicinity of at least a portion of a sample on said sample holder.
- 10 298. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 296, or 297 wherein said motive force element comprises:
- a. a first surface;
 - b. a second surface; and
 - c. a close proximity surface displacement element configured to displace said first
- 15 surface relative to and in close proximity to said second surface.
299. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising:
- a. a substance transient elimination element configured to substantially eliminate said substance from within the immediate vicinity of said
- 20 sample; and
- b. a substance reapplication element that acts upon at least a portion of said transiently eliminated substance.
300. A sample processor as described in claim 299 wherein said substance transient
- 25 elimination element comprises a repetitious action substance transient elimination element, and wherein said substance reapplication element comprises a repetitious action substance reapplication element.
301. A sample processor as described in claim 299 wherein said substance transient
- 30 elimination element and said substance reapplication element are selected from a group consisting of:
- elements configured to move less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
- 35 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance,

- elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.
302. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 225 wherein said biochemically time shortened interaction element comprises a first and second surface angular movement element.
303. An automated sample processor as described in claim 209 wherein said motive force element comprises a first and second surface angular movement element.
304. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said fluid wave element comprises a first and second surface angular movement element.
305. A sample processor as described in claim 302, 303, or 304 wherein said first and second surface angular movement element comprises a first and second surface hinged movement element.
306. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample holder comprises multiple sample holders and further comprising a substantially coincident sample treatment element to which said multiple sample holders are responsive.
307. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample holder is selected from a group consisting of:
- multiple, close proximity surfaces,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented surfaces,

- multiple, close proximity, substantially planar surfaces,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially planar, substantially parallelly-oriented surfaces,
 - multiple, close proximity microscopic slides,
 - 5 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented microscopic slides,
 - multiple, close proximity samples,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented samples,
 - multiple, close proximity substantially planar samples,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially planar, substantially parallelly-oriented
 - 10 samples,
 - at least one close proximity, sample-surface pair, and
 - at least one close proximity, substantially parallel sample-surface pair.
308. A sample processor as described in claim 307 wherein each of said multiple, close
- 15 proximity items in said group is selected from a group consisting of:
 - multiple, close proximity items about 100 μ m apart,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about 100 μ m apart,
 - multiple, close proximity items about 200 μ m apart,
 - 20 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about 200 μ m apart,
 - multiple, close proximity items less than or equal to about 250 μ m apart,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items less than or equal to about 250 μ m apart,
 - 25 - multiple, close proximity items less than or equal to about 300 μ m apart,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items less than or equal to about 300 μ m apart,
 - multiple, close proximity items about an attached identifier element thickness apart,
 - 30 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about an attached identifier element thickness apart, and
 - multiple, close proximity items about two attached identifier element thicknesses apart,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about two
 - 35 attached identifier element thicknesses apart.

- multiple, close proximity items about a label thickness apart,
 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about a label thickness apart,
 - multiple, close proximity items about two label thicknesses apart, and
 - 5 - multiple, close proximity, substantially parallelly-oriented items about two label thicknesses apart.
309. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 296, or 297 wherein said motive force element comprises a hydraulic displacement element.
- 10
310. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 296, or 297 wherein said motive force element comprises a capillary displacement element.
311. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 225 and further comprising a firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element configured to permit a restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of a sample on said sample holder.
- 15
312. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said firm fluidic boundary element comprises a firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element configured to permit a restrictively confined fluidic environment in the vicinity of at least a portion of a sample on said sample holder.
- 20
313. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 311, or 312 and further comprising an increasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
- 25
314. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 311, or 312 and further comprising a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
- 30 315. A sample processor as described in claim 314 and further comprising a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
- 35 316. A sample processor as described in claim 212, 311, or 312 and further comprising a substance transient elimination element configured to substantially eliminate said substance from within an immediate vicinity of said sample.

317. A sample processor as described in claim 316 wherein said substance transient elimination element comprises a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
- 5
318. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 311, or 312 wherein said firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element comprises an opposing surface firm multidirectional fluidic confinement element.
- 10 319. A sample processor as described in claim 318 and further comprising a capillary fluid displacement element.
320. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 311, or 312 wherein said substance source comprises a liquid substance source.
- 15
321. A sample processor as described in claim 209, 311, or 312 wherein said substance source comprises a gaseous substance source.
322. A fast biochemical sample processor as described in claim 232 wherein sample said interface microenvironment substance substantial refresher element comprises a repetitious action element.
- 20
323. An automated sample processor as described in claim 209 wherein said motive force element comprises a repetitious action element.
- 25
324. An automated sample processor as described in claim 194 wherein said fluid wave element comprises a repetitious action element.
325. A sample processor as described in claim 322, 323, or 324 wherein said repetitious action element is selected from a group consisting of:
- 30
- an at least two action repetitious action element,
 - an at least three action repetitious action element,
 - an at least four action repetitious action element,
 - an at least five action repetitious action element, and
 - 35 - an at least six action repetitious action element.

326. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a substance mixer that acts after said substance source has dispensed said substance.
- 5
327. A sample processor as described in claim 326 and further comprising an incubation element.
328. A sample processor as described in claim 326 wherein said substance mixer
10 comprises repetitious action substance mixer.
329. A sample processor as described in claim 328 wherein said sample processor is configured to accomplish actions selected from a group consisting of:
- 15 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least two times,
 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least three times,
 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least four times,
 - 20 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least five times,
 - initially more rapidly repeating a step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample;
 - secondarily more slowly repeating a step of transiently substantially eliminating
25 said substance from said sample;
 - conducting a greater number of initial repetitions of a step of transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample for a chromogen substance;
 - conducting a greater number of initial repetitions of a step of transiently
30 substantially eliminating said substance from said sample for a multi-part substance;
 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about three times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance,

- transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about four times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance,
- 5 - transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about six times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance,
- transiently substantially eliminating said substance from said sample at least about nine times for a buffer, an antibody substance, a chromogen, or a counterstain substance,
- 10 - conducting differing mixing steps for differing substances,
- utilizing differing incubation periods for differing substances,
- utilizing no incubation period for a buffer substance,
- utilizing substantially no incubation period,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 90 seconds without disturbance,
- 15 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 60 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 45 seconds without disturbance,
- 20 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 30 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 22 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 20 seconds without disturbance,
- 25 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 15 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 10 seconds without disturbance,
- 30 - partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 5 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for less than or equal to about 3 seconds without disturbance,
- partially incubating a substance for substantially no time without disturbance,

- incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 300 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
- incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 250 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
- 5 - incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 200 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
- incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 150 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
- incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 20 seconds
- 10 as part of a histochemical process,
- incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 16 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
- incubating a substance for a total time of less than or equal to about 10 seconds as part of a histochemical process,
- 15 - repeating a mixing step with differing occurrences for differing substances, and
- repeating a mixing step multiple times for all substances, and
- repeating a substance removal step multiple times.

330. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample
- 20 processor is selected from a group consisting of:
- a sample processor configured to accomplish a process to be conducted in an automated fashion in an operating room time constraint environment,
 - a sample processor configured to accomplish a process to be conducted in an automated fashion in a point of care time constraint environment, and
 - 25 - a sample processor configured to accomplish a process to be conducted in an automated fashion in an surgery time constraint environment.

331. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample
- holder comprises a biopsy sample holder and wherein said sample processor is
- 30 configured to process a biopsy sample.

332. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample
- holder comprises a biopsy sample holder and wherein said sample processor is
- configured to process a sample selected from a group consisting of:
- 35 - a carcinoma related sample,

- a melanoma related sample,
- a lymphoma related sample, and
- a margin testing related sample.

- 5 333. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample processor is configured to process a sample selected from a group consisting of:
- an epithelial cell sample,
 - a lymph node sample,
 - an undifferentiated tumor cell sample,
 - 10 - a pediatric cell sample,
 - a mohs mapping cell sample,
 - an h.pylori cell sample,
 - a chorionic villi tissue cell sample,
 - a neonatal herpes cell sample, and
 - 15 - a proteomics sample.
334. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 wherein said sample processor is configured to process a sample selected from a group consisting of:
- a transplant procedure indicative substance,
 - 20 - a tumor differentiation indicative substance,
 - a pediatric pathology indicative substance,
 - a pediatric non-pathology indicative substance,
 - a pathology indicative substance,
 - a non-pathology indicative substance,
 - 25 - a margin indicative substance, and
 - a therapeutic marker indicative substance.
335. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a substance transient elimination element configured to substantially eliminate
- 30 said substance from within an immediate vicinity of said sample.
336. A sample processor as described in claim 335 wherein said substance transient elimination element comprises a fluidic substance elimination element.

337. A sample processor as described in claim 335 wherein said substance transient elimination element comprises a capillary action substance elimination element.
338. A sample processor as described in claim 337 wherein said capillary action substance elimination element comprises a decreasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
339. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a substance application element responsive to said substance source.
340. A sample processor as described in claim 339 wherein said substance application element comprises capillary action substance application element.
341. A sample processor as described in claim 340 wherein said capillary action substance application element comprises an increasing restrictive fluidic confinement element.
342. A sample processor as described in claim 336 wherein said substance transient elimination element is selected from a group consisting of:
- elements configured to move less than or equal to about 300 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 225 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move less than or equal to about 200 μ l of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate replenishment of a microenvironment,
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of said substance that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period, and
 - elements configured to move a minimal amount of a fluid that permits adequate interaction between said sample and said substance in a selected process time period.

343. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a substance withdrawal element configured to withdraw said substance upon completion of at least a portion of a process.
- 5 344. A sample processor as described in claim 343 wherein said substance withdrawal element comprises a capillary action substance withdrawal element.
345. A sample processor as described in claim 344 wherein said capillary action substance withdrawal element comprises a wicking element.
- 10 346. A sample processor as described in claim 345 wherein said substance withdrawal element is selected from a group consisting of:
- sample orientation element,
 - a surface orientation element,
 - 15 - a tilted surface orientation element,
 - a untilted surface orientation element,
 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a surface at at least about 22.5°,
 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a surface at at least about 30°,
 - 20 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a surface at at least about 45°,
 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a surface at at least about 60°,
 - 25 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a surface at at least about 67.5°,
 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces,
 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces at at least about 22.5°,
 - 30 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces at at least about 45°, and
 - a tilted surface orientation element configured to establish a tilted bisected angle between two surfaces at at least about 90°.

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347. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element.
348. A sample processor as described in claim 347 wherein said greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element comprises a greater than a capillary movement speed fluid application element.
349. A sample processor as described in claim 348 wherein said greater than a capillary movement speed fluid application element comprises a substantially simultaneous and substantially even fluid spreader element.
350. A sample processor as described in claim 347 wherein said greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element comprises greater than a capillary movement speed fluid elimination element.
351. A sample processor as described in claim 347 wherein said greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element causes fluid movement that is faster than a capillary movement speed for a particular configuration.
352. A sample processor as described in claim 347 wherein said greater than a capillary movement speed fluid movement element is selected from a group consisting of:
- a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.05m/s,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.1m/s,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.125m/s,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.25m/s,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement of at least equal to about 0.5m/s,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement of at least equal to about 1m/s,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 1 second,

- a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement for less than or equal to about one-half second,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 400 milliseconds,
 - 5 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 200 milliseconds,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 100 milliseconds,
 - 10 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement for less than or equal to about 50 milliseconds,
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement that is greater than a meniscus movement speed for a particular configuration, and
 - a fluid movement element configured to accomplish a fluid movement that is greater than a wicking movement speed for a particular configuration.
- 15
353. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a sample interface microenvironment affirmative depletion avoidance element.
354. A sample processor as described in claim 353 wherein said sample interface
20 microenvironment affirmative depletion avoidance element comprises a sample interface microenvironment mix element.
355. A sample processor as described in claim 354 wherein said sample interface microenvironment mix element is selected from a group consisting of:
- 25 - a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 20 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 10 μ m thick sample interface
30 microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 5 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,

- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 2 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 1 μ m thick sample interface microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 500nm thick sample interface microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 200nm thick sample interface microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 100nm thick sample interface microenvironment,
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 50nm thick sample interface microenvironment, and
- a sample interface microenvironment mix element configured to accomplish substantial mixing at least within an about 10nm thick sample interface microenvironment.

356. A sample processor as described in claim 194, 209, or 225 and further comprising a sample interface microenvironment substance substantial refresher element.

357. A sample processor as described in claim 356 wherein said sample interface microenvironment substance substantial refresher element comprises:

- a. a substance transient elimination element; and
- b. a substance reapplication element.

358. A sample processor as described in claim 357 wherein said substance transient elimination element comprises a repetitious action substance transient elimination element, and wherein said substance reapplication element comprises a repetitious action substance reapplication element.

359. A sample processor as described in claim 356 wherein said sample holder comprises multiple sample holders and wherein sample interface microenvironment substance substantial refresher element comprises a substantially_coincident sample treatment element to which said multiple sample holders are responsive.
360. A sample processor as described in claim 357 and further comprising a collected fluid pause element that acts at least some times after action of said substance transient elimination element.
361. A sample processor as described in claim 360 wherein said collected fluid pause element is selected from a group consisting of:
- a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample without disturbance,
 - a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 500 milliseconds,
 - a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 1000 milliseconds,
 - a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 1500 milliseconds, and
 - a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 2 seconds,
 - a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 3 seconds, and
 - a collected fluid pause element configured to momentarily hold said substance eliminated from said sample for less than or equal to about 4 seconds.
362. A sample processor as described in claim 360 wherein said collected fluid pause element comprises a multiple pause collected fluid pause element.

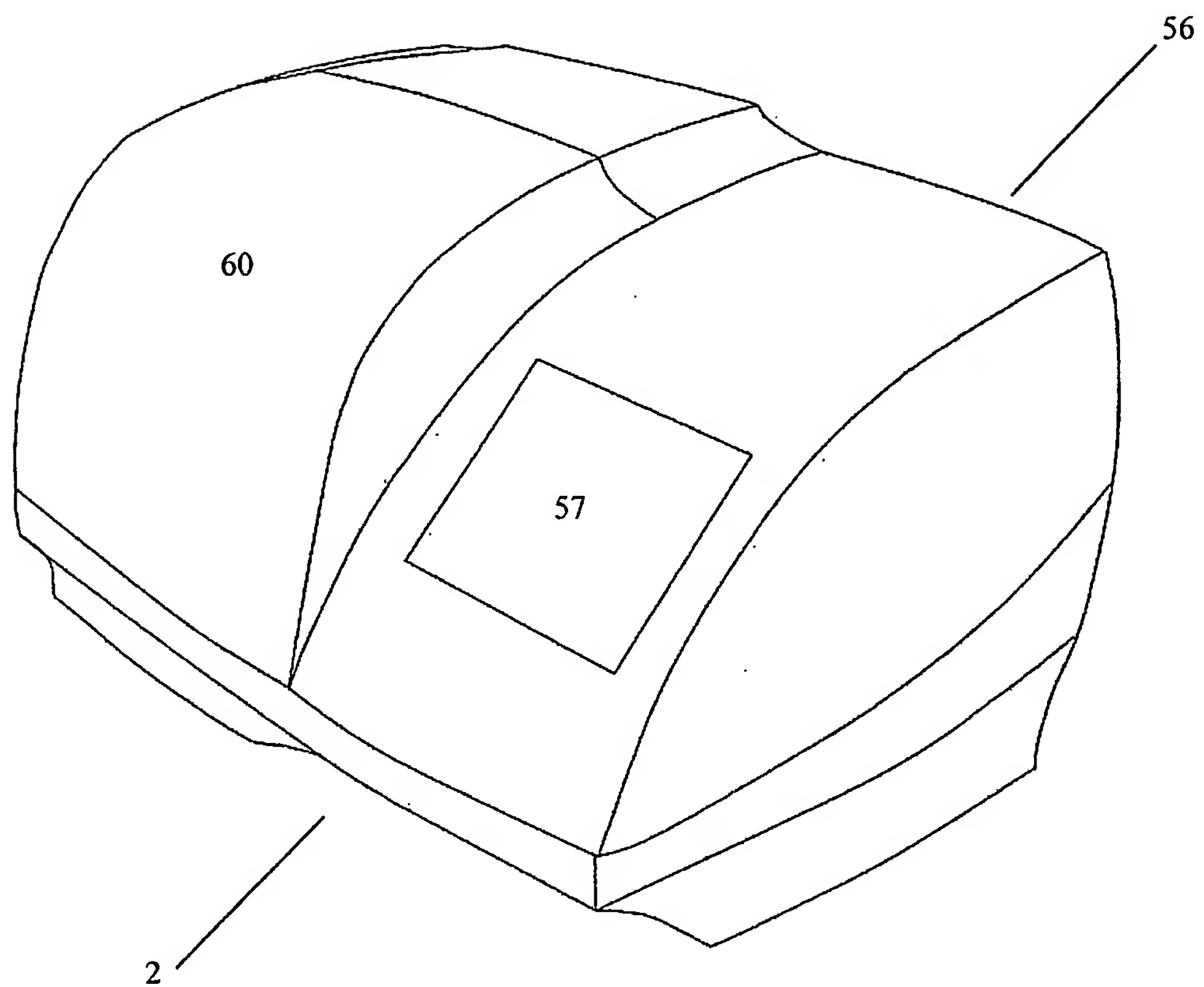


Fig. 1

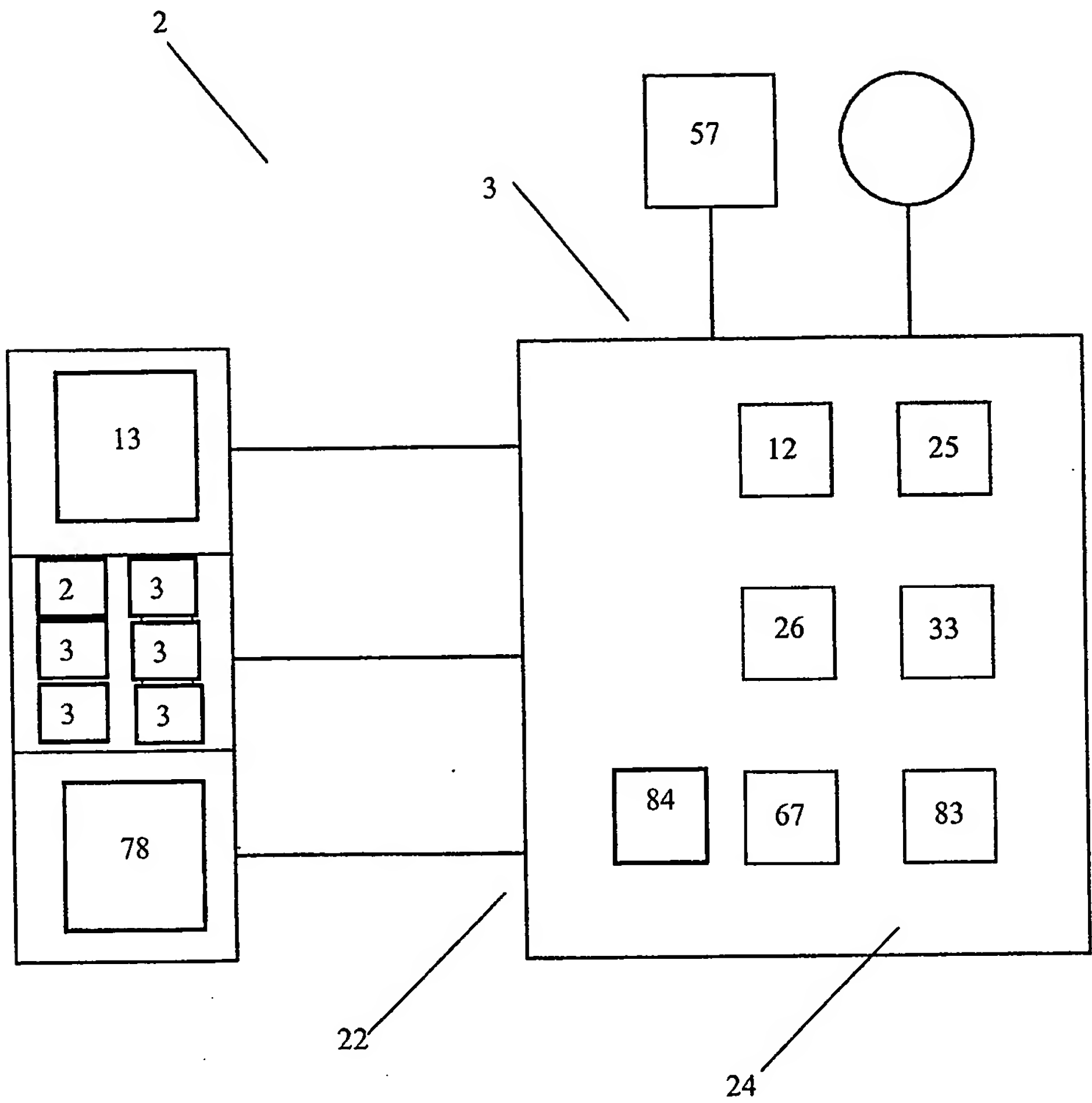


Fig. 2

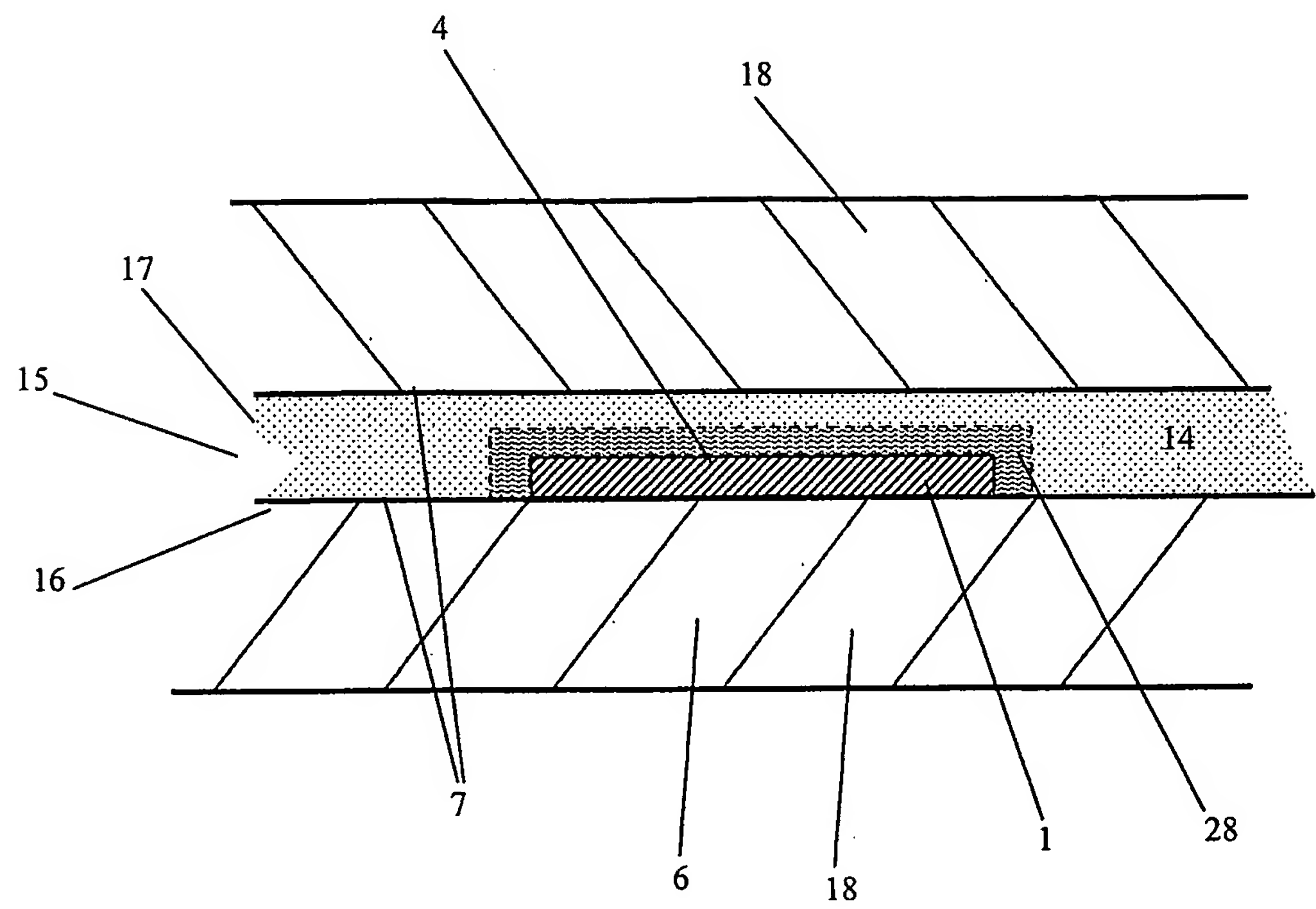


Fig. 3

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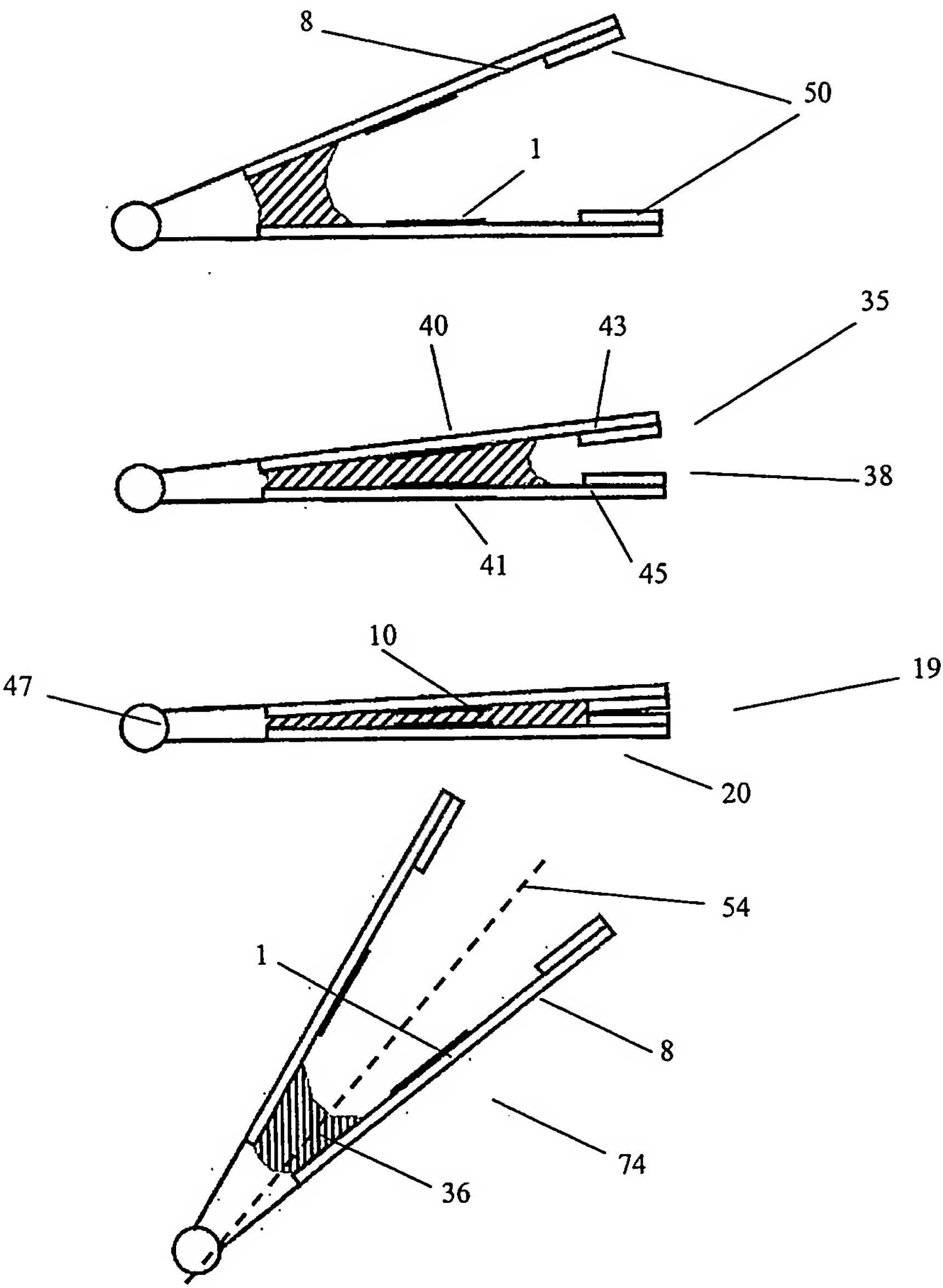


Fig. 4

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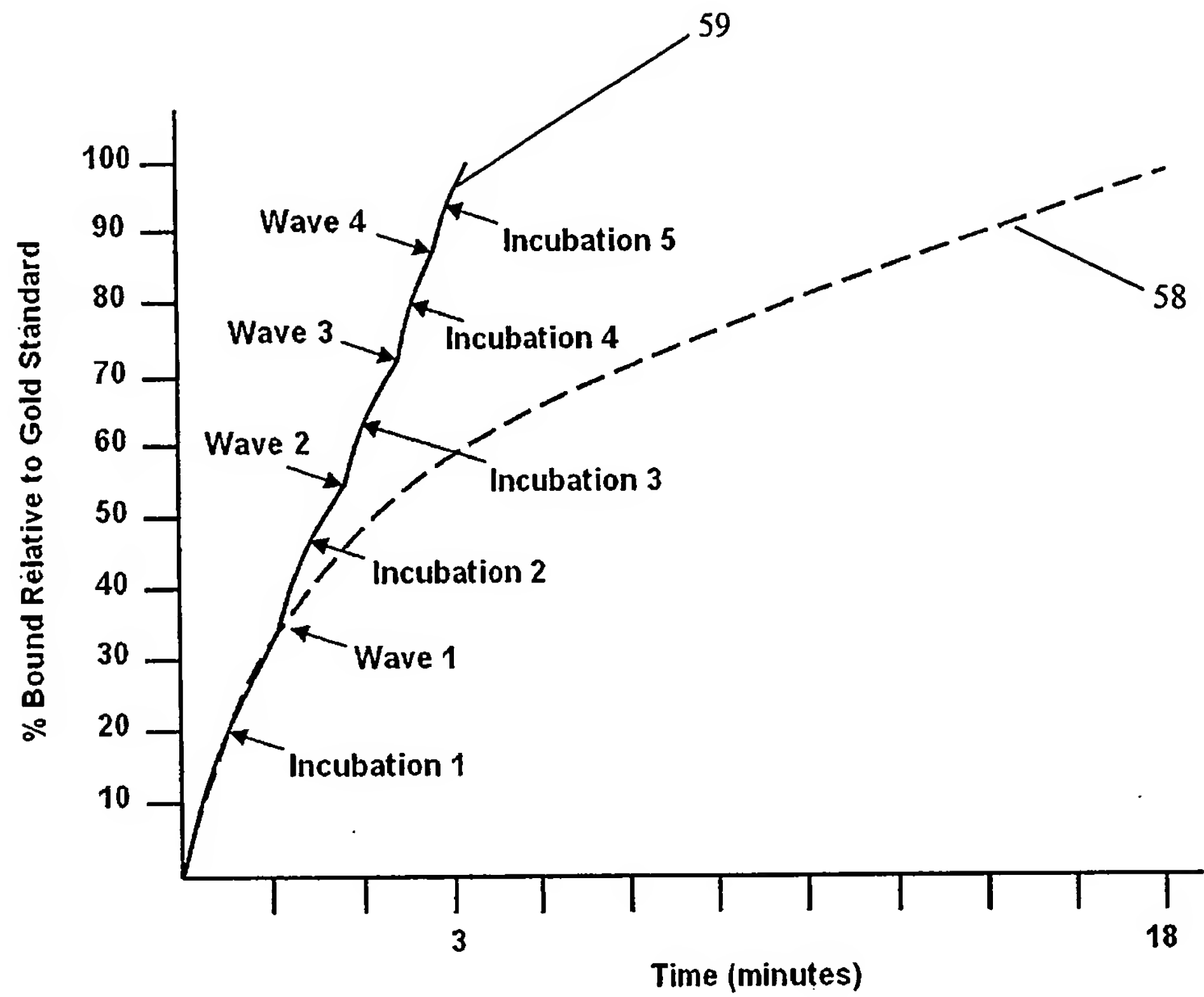


Fig. 5

Step	Step Name	Move Time (Open, ms)	Dwell Time (ms)	Move Time (Close, ms)	Dwell Time (ms)	Repeats	Total Time in Step (ms)	Comments
1	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
2	Dispense Ab1	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
3	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	2,000	3	12900	
4	Waves, Set 2	400	1,500	400	22,000	6	145800	
5	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
6	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
7	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
8	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
9	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
10	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
11	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
12	Dispense Ab2-Enz	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
13	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	2,000	3	12900	
14	Waves, Set 2	400	1,500	400	22,000	6	145800	
15	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
16	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
17	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
18	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
19	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
20	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
21	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
22	Dispense Chromogen	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
23	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	2,000	4	17200	
24	Waves, Set 2	400	1,500	400	22,000	6	145800	
25	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
26	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
27	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
28	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
29	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
30	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
31	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
32	Dispense Counterstain	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
33	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	4	25200	
34	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
35	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
36	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
37	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
38	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
39	Waves, Set 1	400	1,500	400	4,000	3	18900	
40	Wick	500	4,000	500	0	1	5,000	
41	Dispense Buffer	1,000	8,000	1,000	0	1	10,000	
42	Home	0	0	400	4,000	1	4400	
44	Total Time in Protocol						856.200	(=Total Time in Protocol in ms: 14.27min)

Fig. 6

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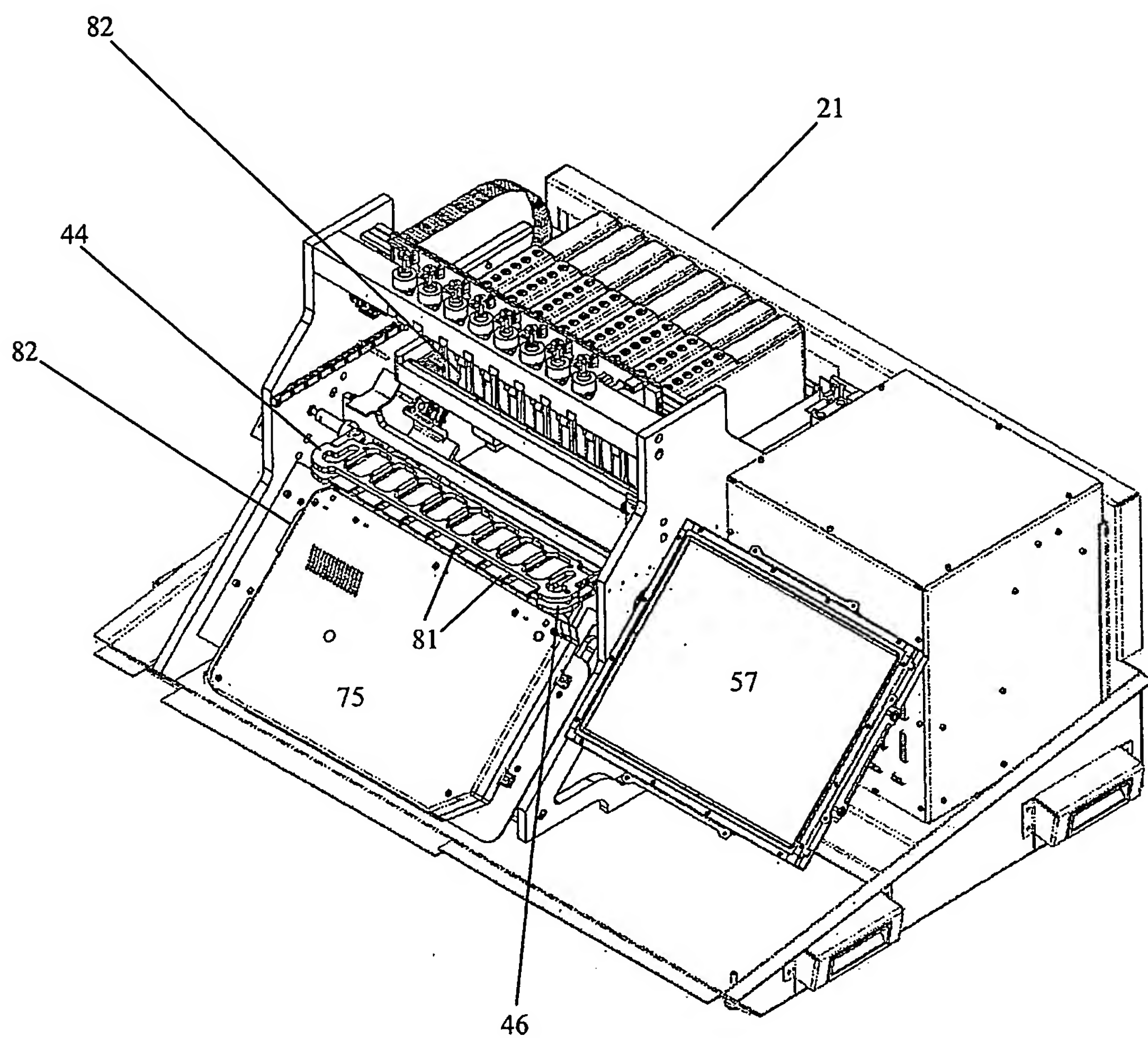


Fig. 8

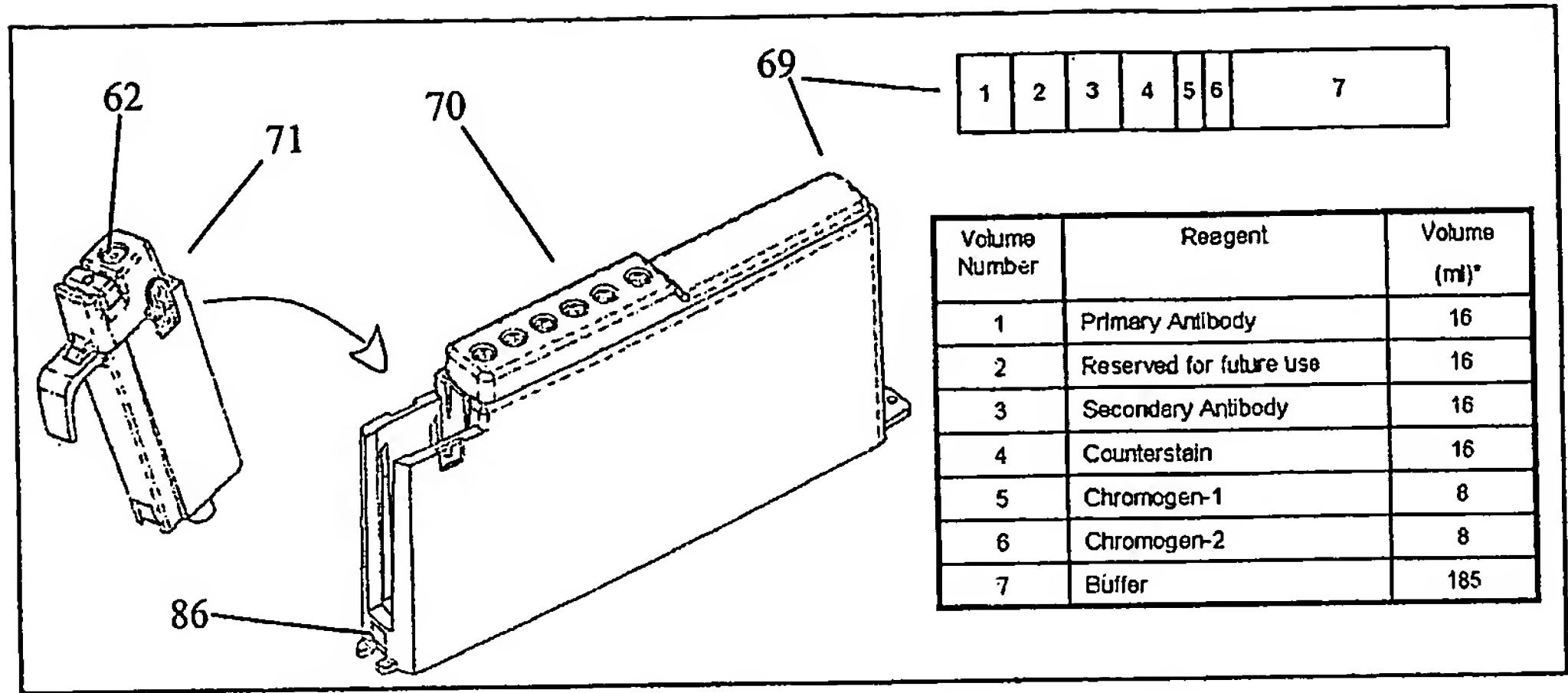


Fig. 9

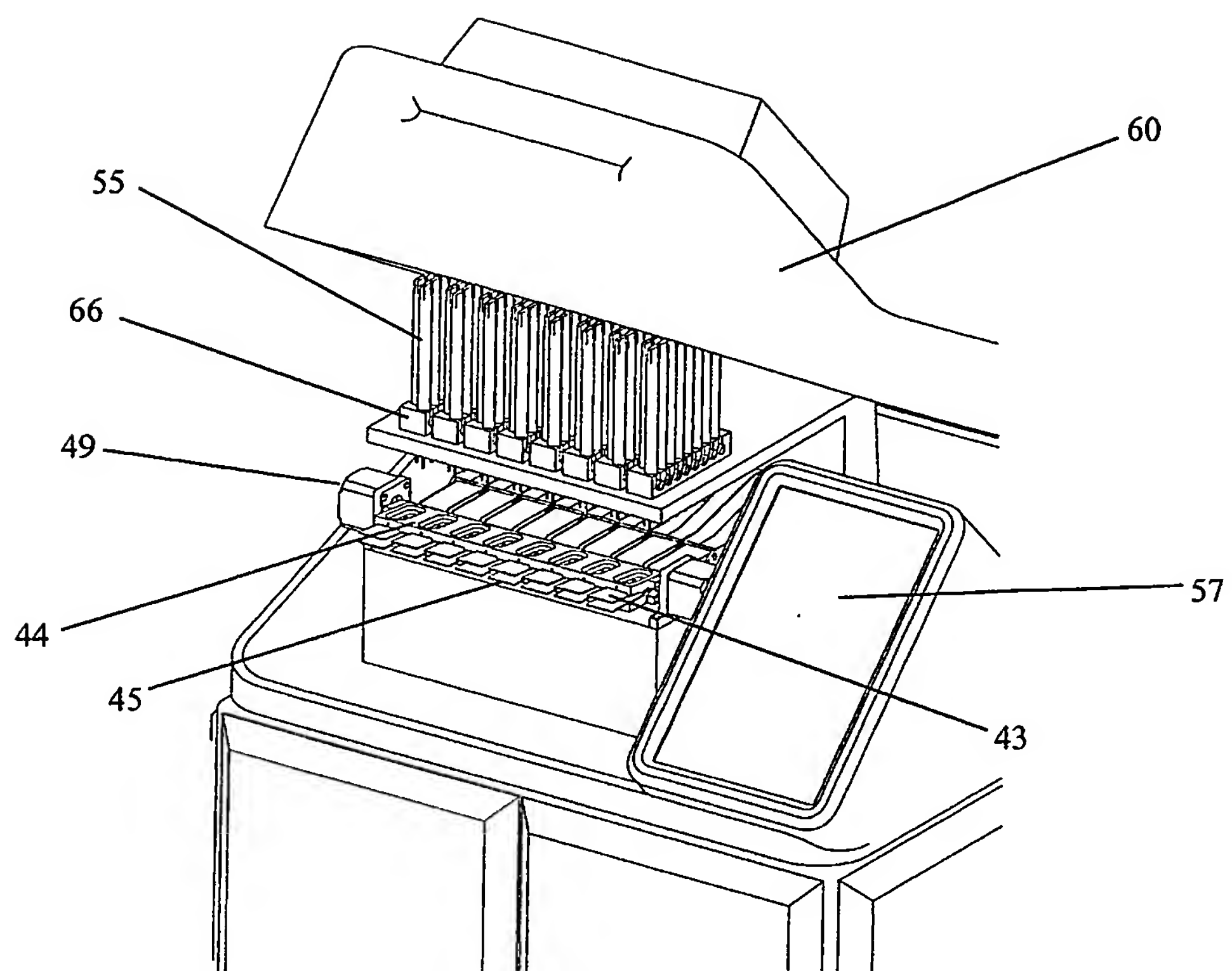


Fig. 10

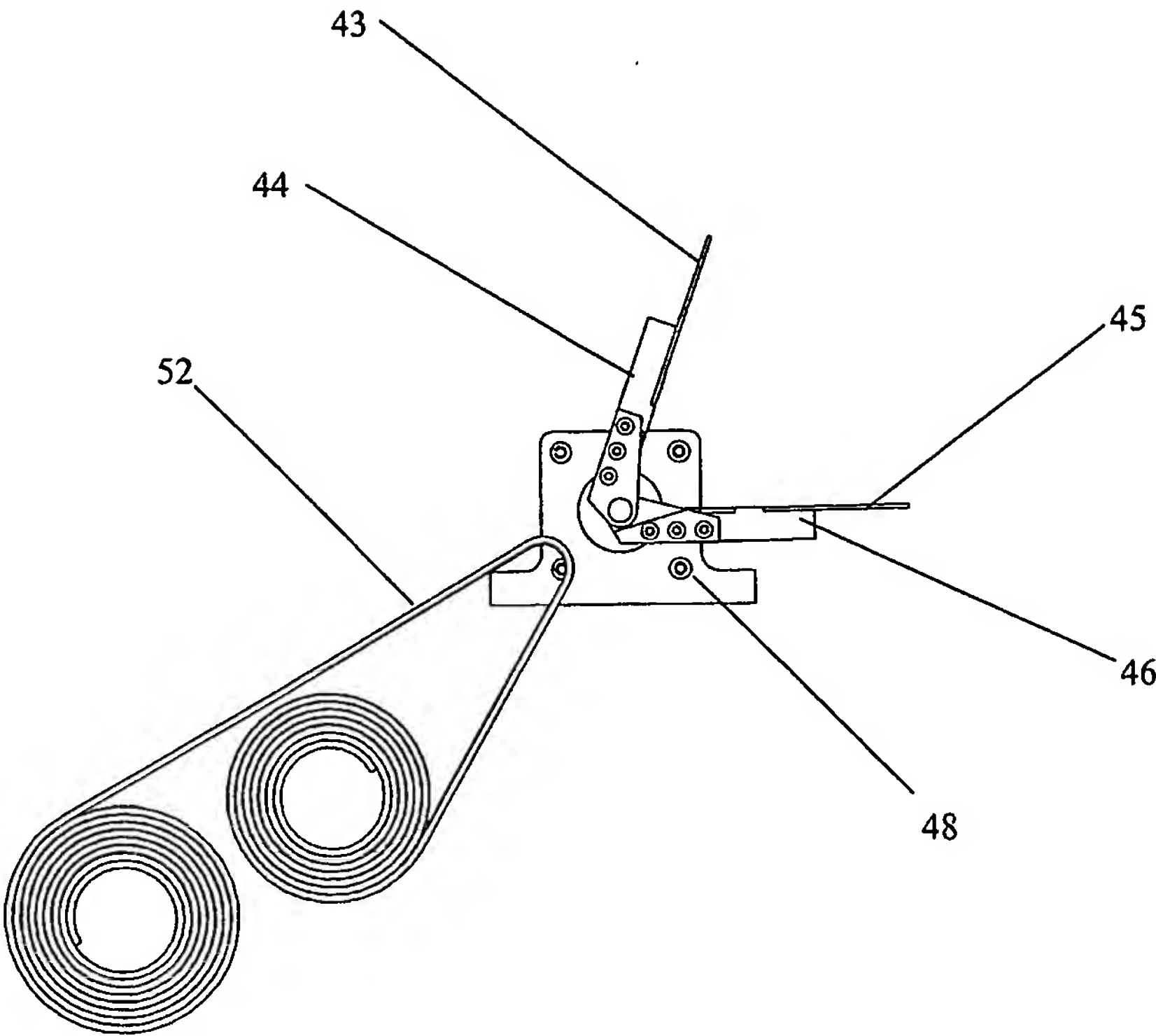


Fig. 11

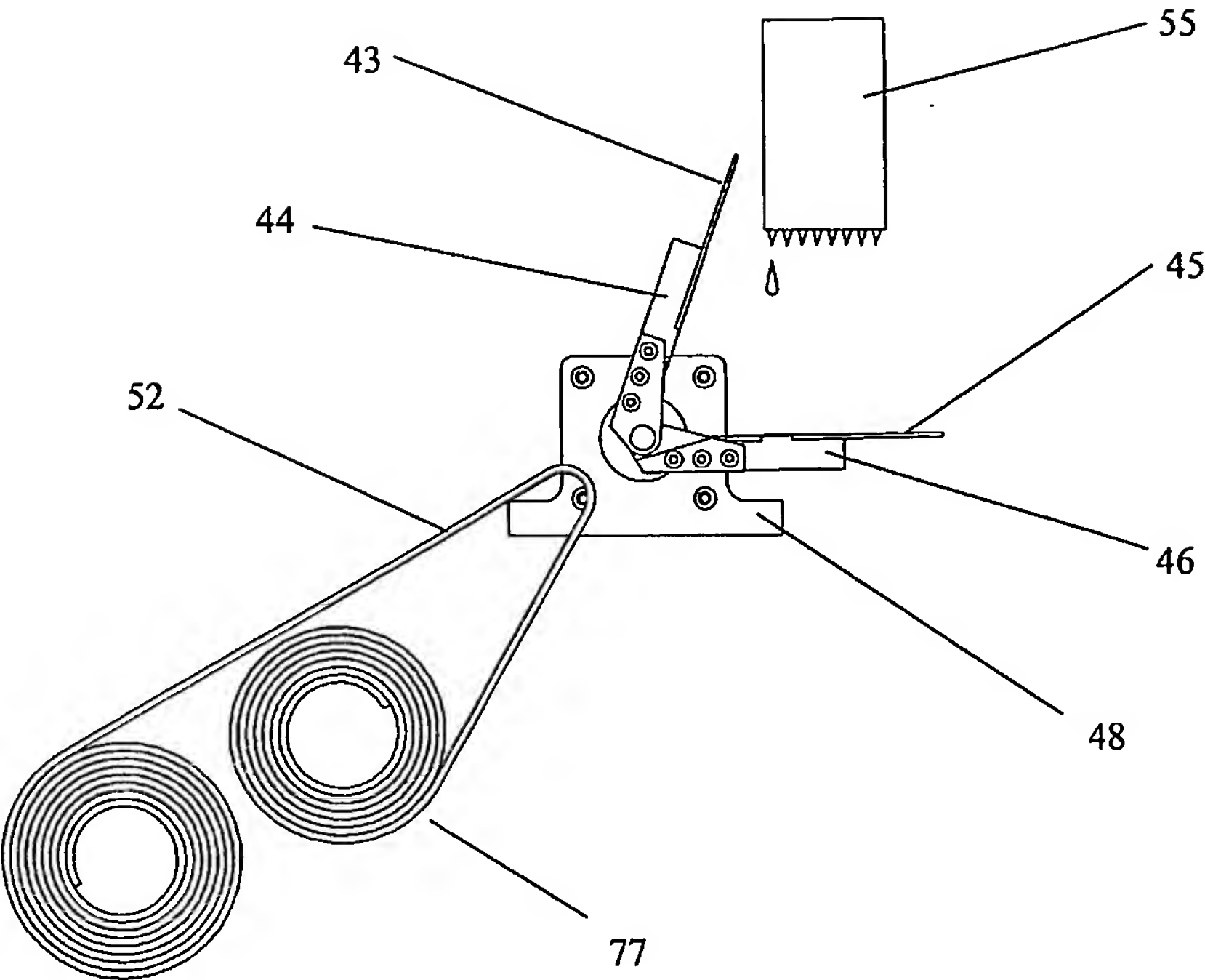


Fig. 12

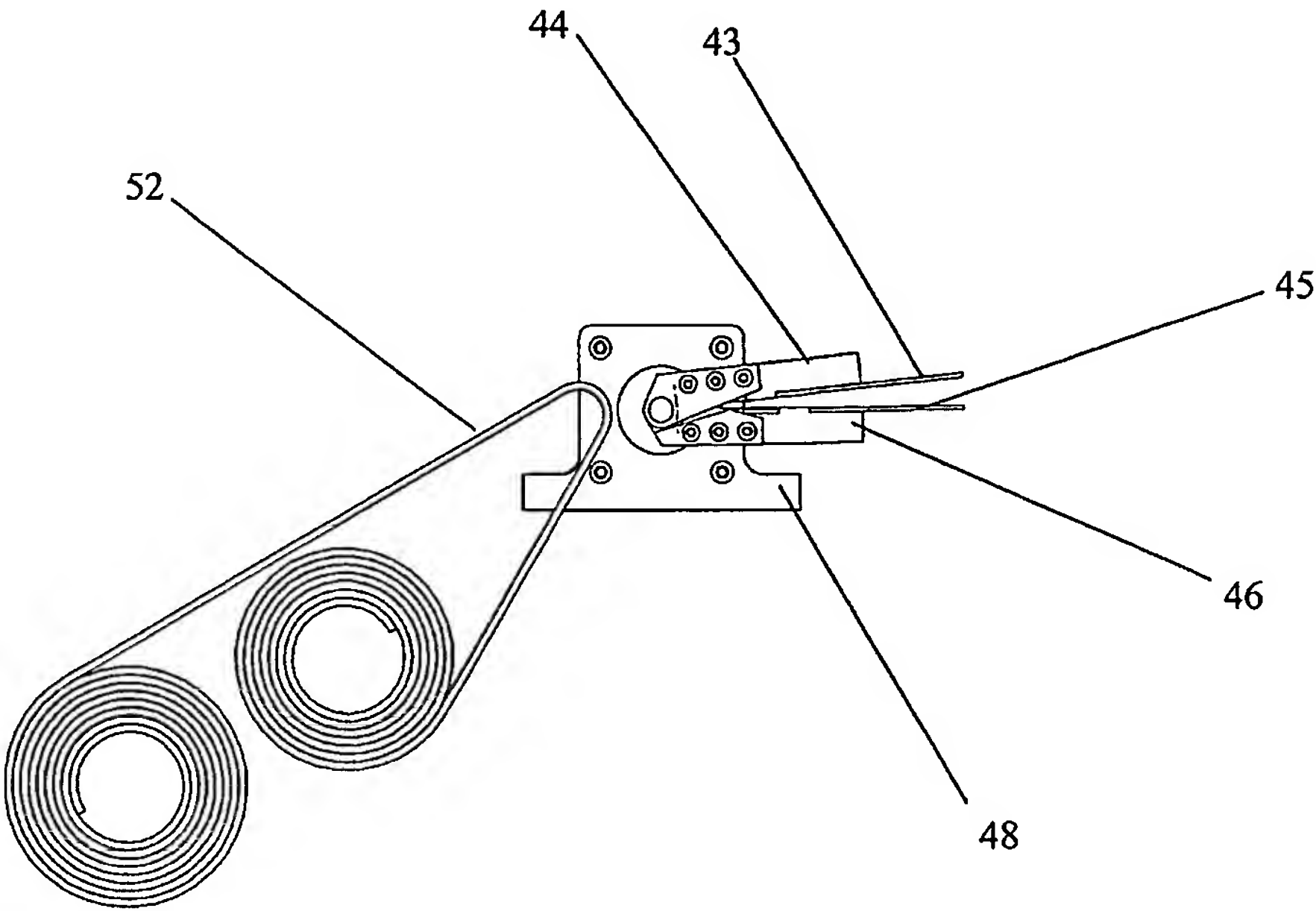


Fig. 13

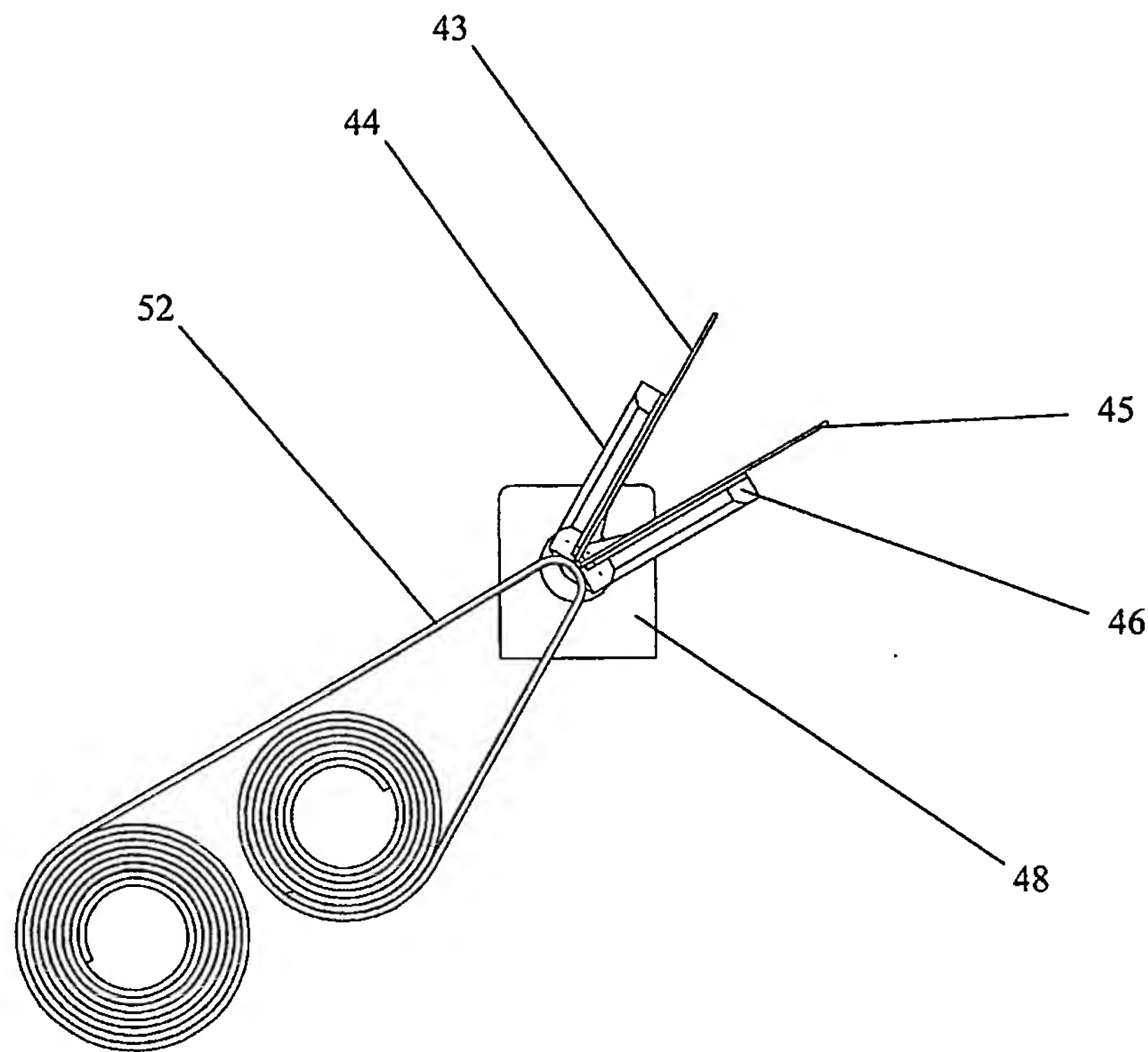


Fig. 15

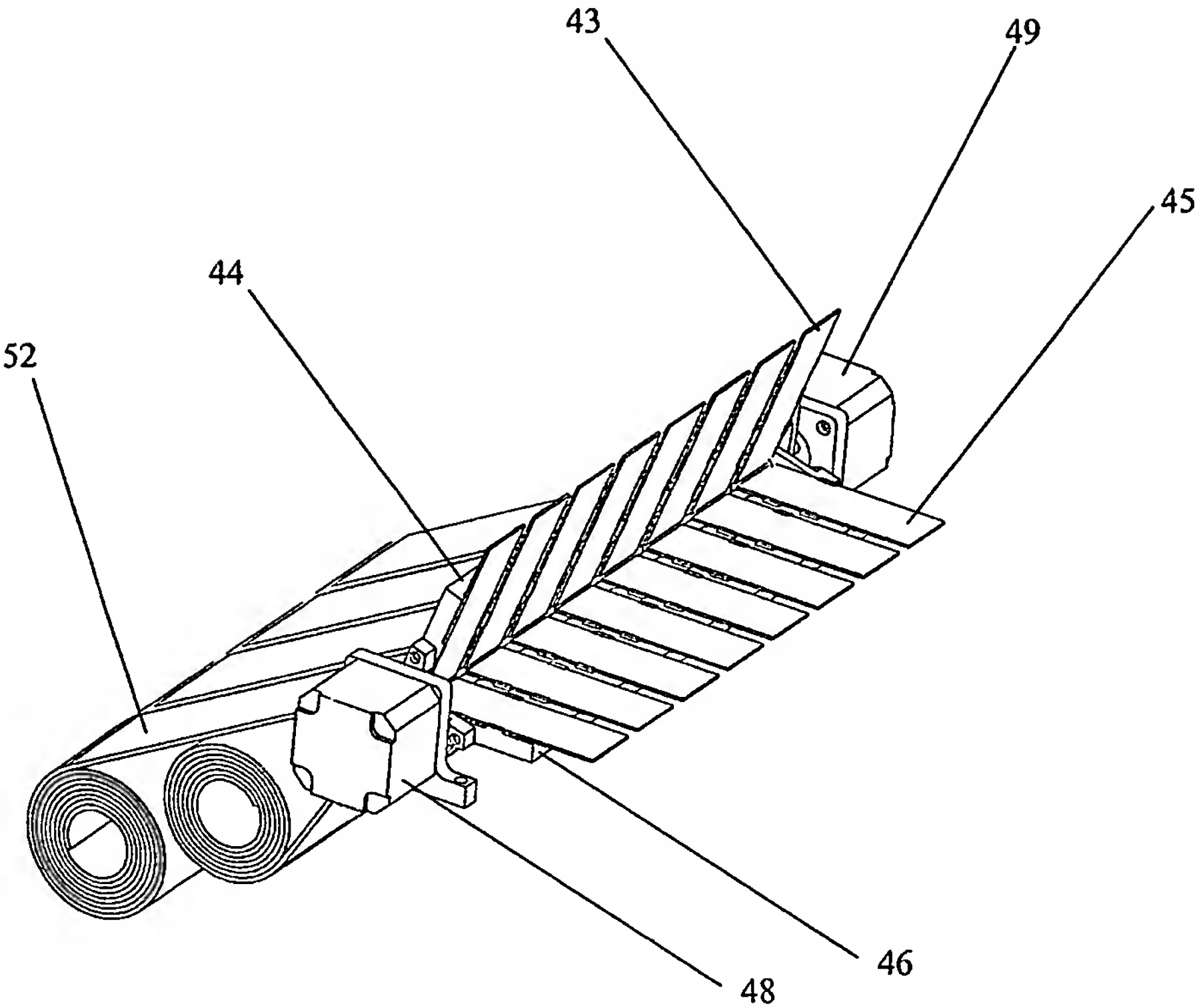


Fig. 16

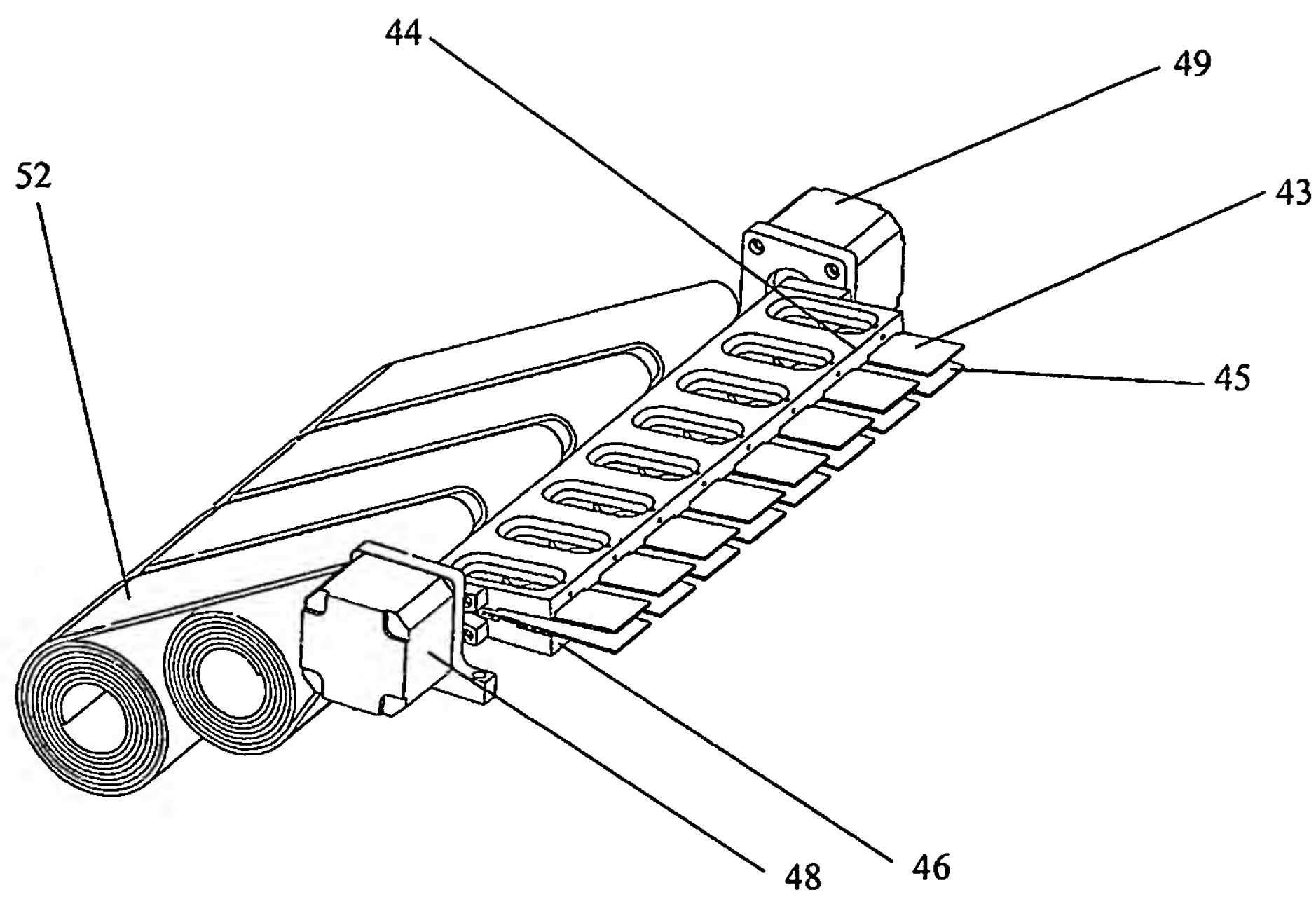


Fig. 17

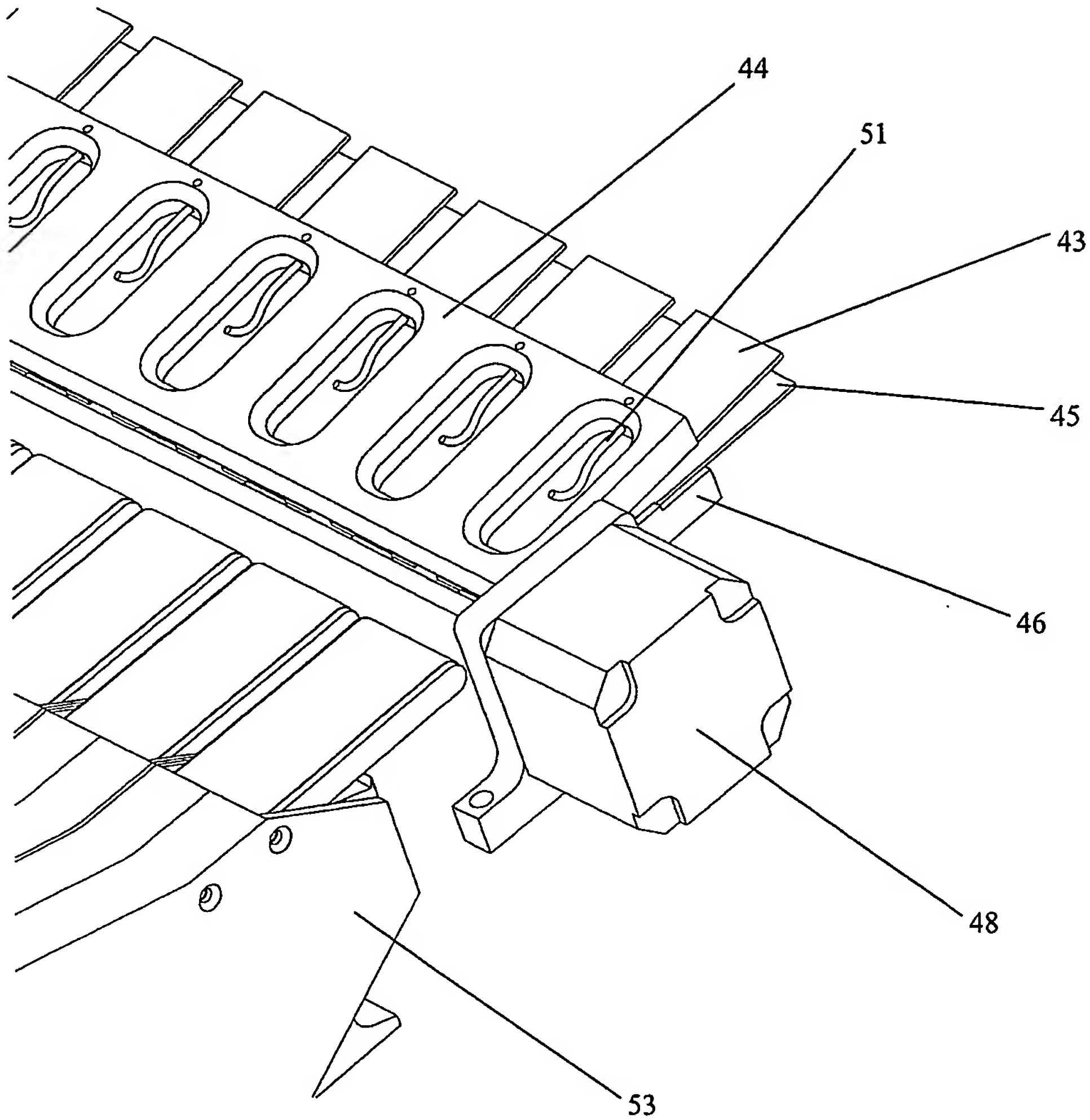


Fig. 18

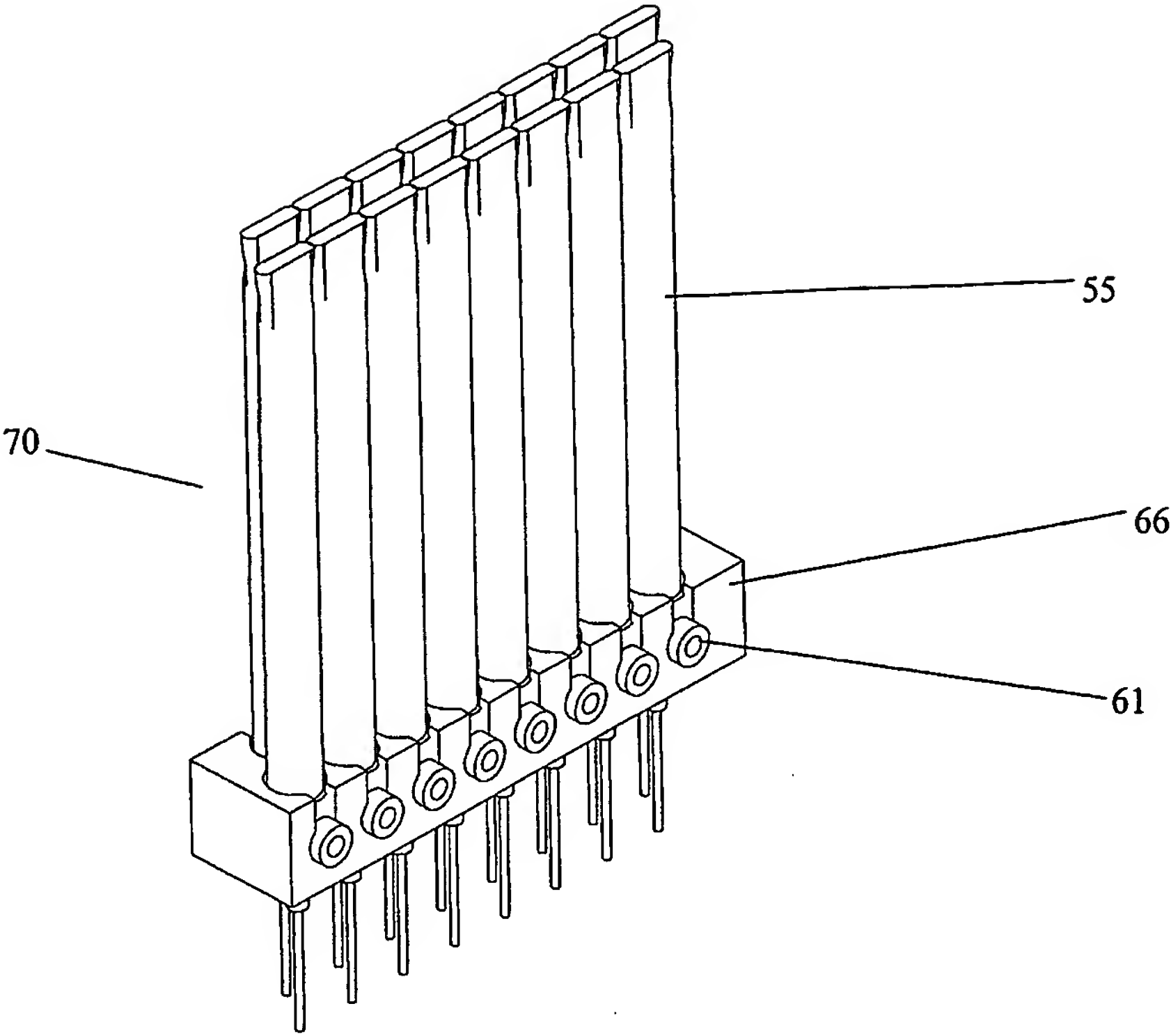


Fig. 19

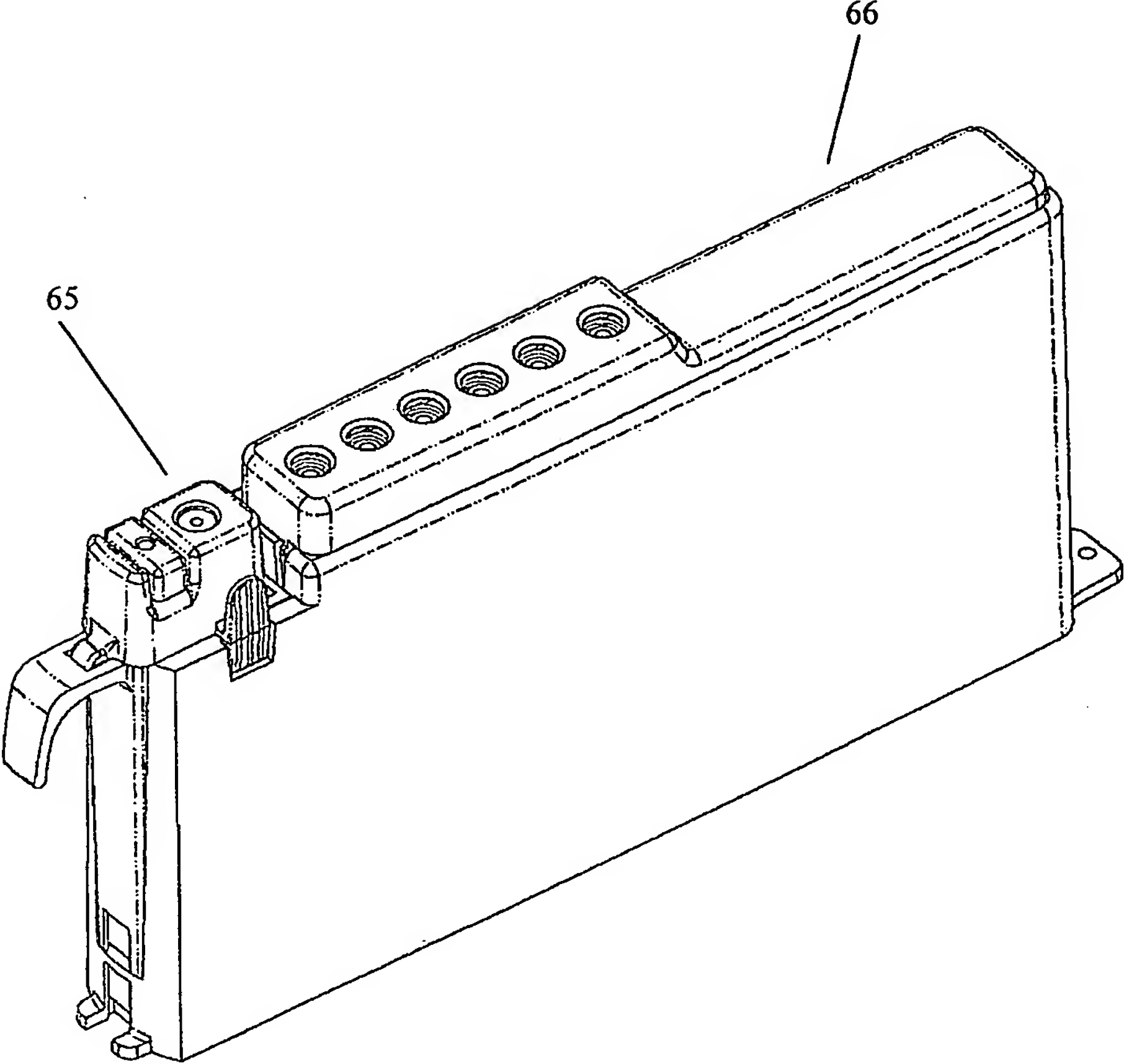


Fig. 20

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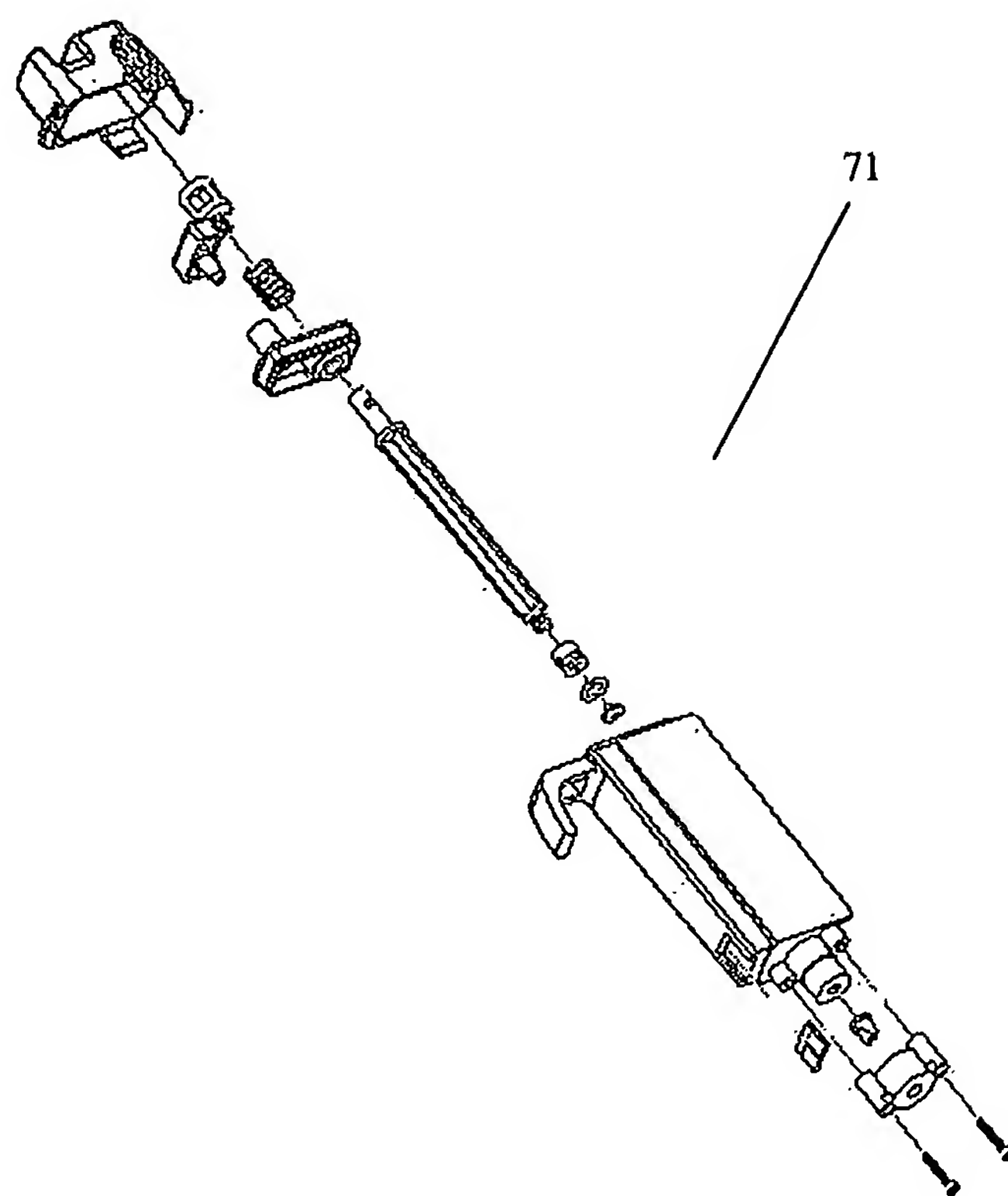


Fig. 21

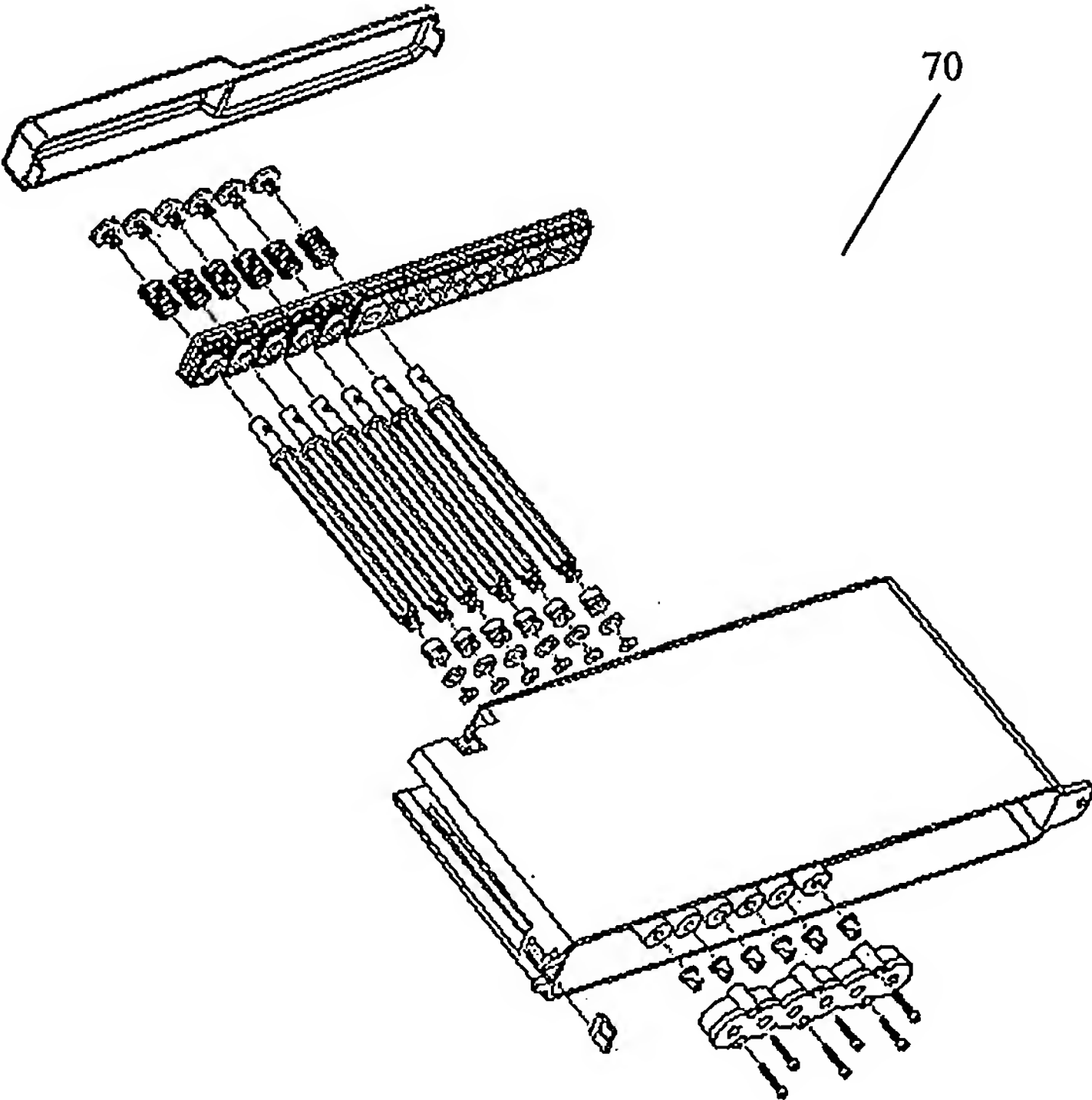


Fig. 22

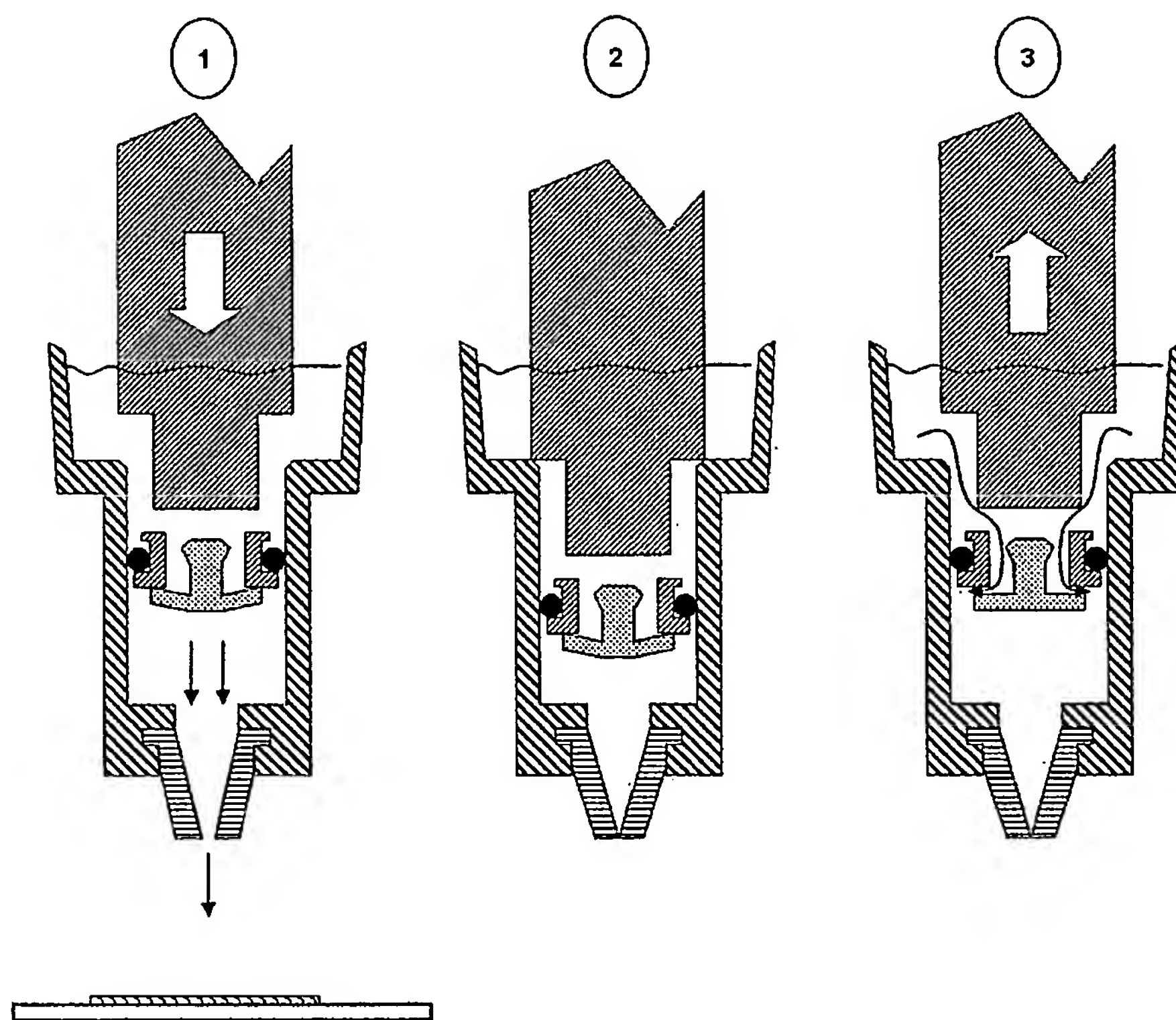


Fig. 23

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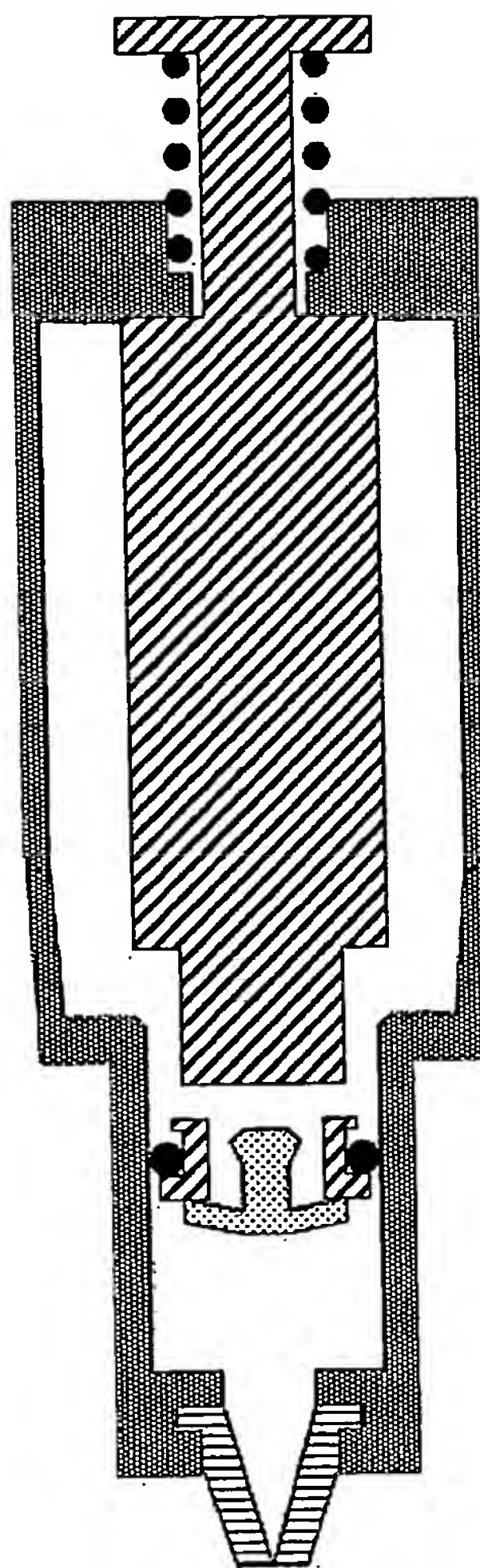


Fig. 24